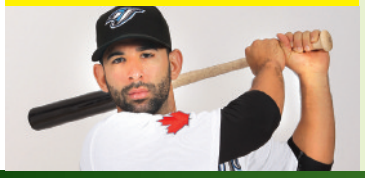
OPENING DAY
PLEASE WELCOME YOUR 2011 TORONTO BLUE JAYS {page 39}



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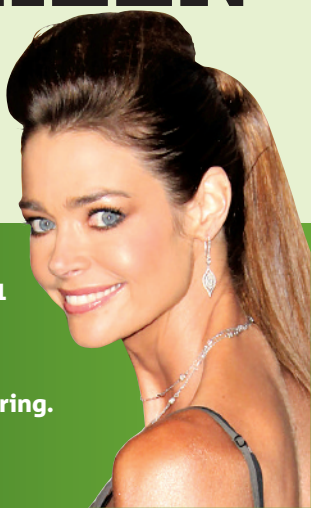
DENISE TAKES PRECAUTIONS
DISH {page 23}



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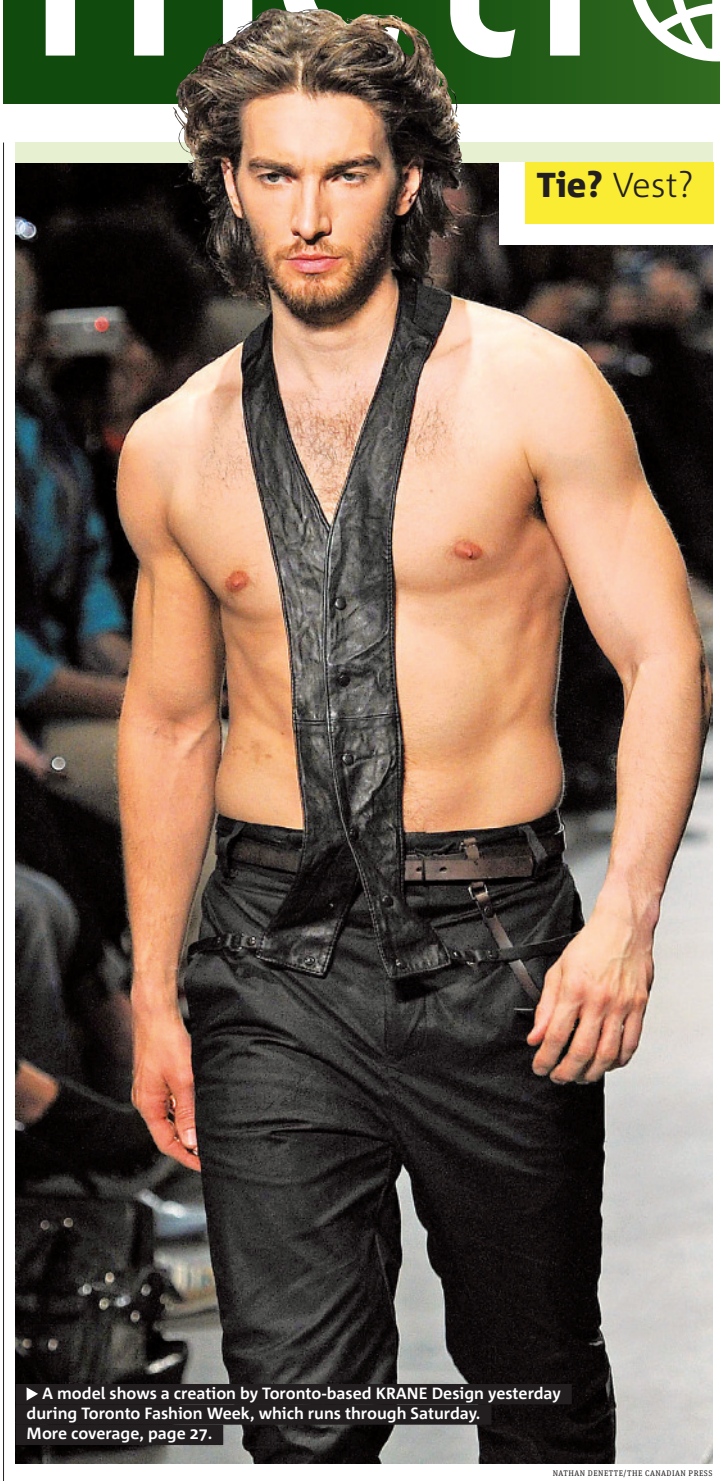

Tie? Vest?

▶ A model shows a creation by Toronto-based KRANE Design yesterday during Toronto Fashion Week, which runs through Saturday. More coverage, page 27.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boys' turn to shine at Fashion Week

Liberals all aboard new LRT plan

Province set to commit more than $8B to crosstown Eglinton line ahead of October election ◐ Construction would start this year ◐ Completion scheduled for 2020

The Better Way will get a lot bigger under a new $12.4-billion plan to extend the Sheppard subway line in both directions and build a new Eglinton light-rail line from Jane Street to Kennedy station.

Premier Dalton McGuinty is expected to announce today that the province will spend $8.2 billion on the new 20-kilometre Eglinton Crosstown Metro. It would run underground all the way from Black Creek to Kennedy station and continue above ground along the existing Scarborough Rapid Transit route, which would be converted to the same LRT technology.

But it will be up to Mayor Rob Ford and council to determine how to finance the $4.2 billion for the Sheppard subway extensions he wants to build west to Downsview station and east to Scarborough Town Centre.

"There are only four ways to do it: Existing revenue tools like property taxes; a private-public partnership; increased federal funding; or, down the road, some kind of new funding arrangement with the province," one source confided.

The new arrangement would take traffic off the Bloor-Danforth subway, according to one provincial source. Studies show many riders would switch to the Eglinton LRT to travel to the Yonge and Eglinton area. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

MORE TRANSIT NEWS, PAGE 3

56
Under former mayor David Miller's administration, Metrolinx was prepared to fund about 56 kilometres of light rail on dedicated lanes by about the end of the decade.

Federal vote

Having electoral fun yet?

◐ Liberal incumbent in Richmond Hill ready for anything GTA-targeting Tories decide to throw at him {page 6}
◐ More from the campaign trail {pages 8-9}

Meet Pearson's private air force

Team of killer birds deputized to deal with 'nuisance' birds {page 4}

Ocean radiation incites alarm

Officials downplay risks posed by contaminated water {pages 10-11}

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Finch riders losing out as city buries LRT

Riders who pack the crowded 36 Finch West bus are about to become the biggest losers of the city's latest transit expansion plan that no longer includes light rail on Finch Ave.

Swept to power last fall on a promise of better connecting the suburbs with downtown, Mayor Rob Ford is now being accused by critics of abandoning the low-income, high-immigrant communities in the northwest corner of Toronto.

At best, Finch will get a dedicated bus lane or an express bus to bolster service for the 40,000 riders who pack the 36 bus or, worse, are left standing at the curb because they can't elbow their way on.

Finch is so congested that when the TTC considered an express bus in the past, the idea was abandoned because additional buses would exacerbate the problem.

Many riders weren't aware that Finch was slated for a transit makeover. That was before Ford decreed there would be no more light-rail tracks on Toronto streets.

He effectively killed the light rail the previous city administration had agreed on for Finch between Keele Street, where it would have connected with the Spadina subway extension, and Humber College. The $1.2-billion project was to have opened in 2019.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Toronto's latest transit expansion plan no longer includes light rail on Finch Avenue.

Province puts an end to TTC strikes

The New Democrats, the only party to vote against the bill, call it a 'full-frontal attack' on labour

Public transit is now an essential service in the city under a new law that bans strikes and lockouts by Toronto Transit Commission workers.

The government bill passed yesterday in the Ontario legislature by a vote of 68-9, just a day before the first labour contracts with transit workers were set to expire.

The move infuriated labour leaders, including Bob Kinnear, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113, which represents nearly 10,000 TTC workers.

He derided Premier Dalton McGuinty as a "lapdog" to "union-hating, right-wing" Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, who promised to ban TTC strikes during last year's election campaign.

McGuinty, who was in Michigan, didn't cast a final vote on the bill. But that didn't stop Kinnear from accusing the absent premier of stripping workers of their rights to save a few Liberal seats in the fall election.

"They'd better not think that they can push us around because we do not have the right to strike."
UNION PRESIDENT BOB KINNEAR

Labour Minister Charles Sousa said the law was needed to avoid disruptive strikes that cripple the city.

"This is about the million-and-a-half people and the riders who depend on the TTC," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Union president Bob Kinnear, above, laid into Premier Dalton McGuinty yesterday after Queen's Park voted to make the TTC an essential service.

1 news

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Birds of prey defend skies over Pearson

The littlest one, a kestrel falcon named Ferocious Pete, is about the size of a man's hand but is the strongest

Some have soft-sounding names like Juliet, Pablo, Ivan, Tally, Remy and Dante. Others bring to mind warriors or super heroes: Apache, Attila, Mav, Flash and Baron.

The faces behind the names have hooked beaks. Their toes are flesh-piercing talons.

They are falcons, hawks and one nasty bald eagle named Ivan. They work at Pearson International Airport, from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

As "employees" of Falcon Environmental Services, they are charged with frightening away nuisance birds, eating them if necessary, so they don't wind up in airplane engines. Their payoff for a job well done? A tasty hunk of raw quail served by hand.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Technique

- **Wrestle** Falcons knock their prey out of the air, whereas hawks are low-flying birds and wrestle their prey on the ground.
- **Control** Bird strikes are going up in Canada and Transport Canada has mandated that all airports have a wildlife control program in place. Not all airports use birds of prey, as Pearson has for several years; others use explosive devices.

97 The latest figures from Transport Canada show that in 2009, Toronto had 97 bird strikes, while Vancouver had 140.

TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Tally, a female Harris Hawk, flies out fast from the passenger side window in what's called car hawking, where the trainer drives the perimeter of the airfield looking for unwelcome wildlife and rolls the window down when they or Tally see something she can scare off. Darren Smith is one of a whole team of Wildlife Control experts utilized by Pearson Airport to use falcons, hawks, one bald eagle and a dog to keep birds out of the engines of airplanes at Pearson.

Toronto gets cleaned up in 20 minutes

The city kicked off its 2011 20-minute makeover event yesterday morning at Nathan Phillips Square, where Mayor Rob Ford pitched in to clean up.

Now in its seventh year, the clean city initiative continues to receive strong support from residents and businesses across the GTA.

"We've been successful in the past and I imagine we will be again," said Myles Currie, director of transportation.

The 20-minute makeover encourages Torontonians to commit a third of an hour towards picking up litter and debris.

"We ask people to come outside and clean up around their homes," Currie said and mentioned the program is well supported by just about everybody. "The schools are involved and local businesses."

Currie said this year's focus is written all over the walls.

"There is a real focus on graffiti," Currie said. "We're constantly working on it."

The next clean up dates are April 15-16 and Currie said that the event is undertaken by approximately 500 workers per day and over 300 pieces of equipment. MARK HERBERT

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Mayor Rob Ford

Man dies after getting pinned underneath car

A man working on his car died after the vehicle fell on him.

Toronto police say it happened Tuesday evening while the man, in his late teens or early 20s, was working on the vehicle in the garage of a home.

When paramedics arrived at the home on Princess Margaret Boulevard, the man was found without vital signs and pronounced dead at hospital.

The first ambulance called to the scene was involved in a head-on collision.

No one was hurt. Police are investigating both incidents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Police tape seals off the home on County Road 6, north of Elmvale, Ont., where the dismembered remains of Donald and Lauredith White were found on Sunday.

Son charged in slaying of parents

As word spread in the rural farm community of Elmvale, Ont., that Donald White and his wife, Lauredith, had been slain and dismembered, neighbours were even more horrified to learn the couple's son had been charged in their deaths.

The butchered remains of the couple were removed Sunday from their ranch-style bungalow on County Road 6, just north of the rural community, in Springwater Township.

Their son, Gregory White, 26, faces two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of indecently interfering with a human body.

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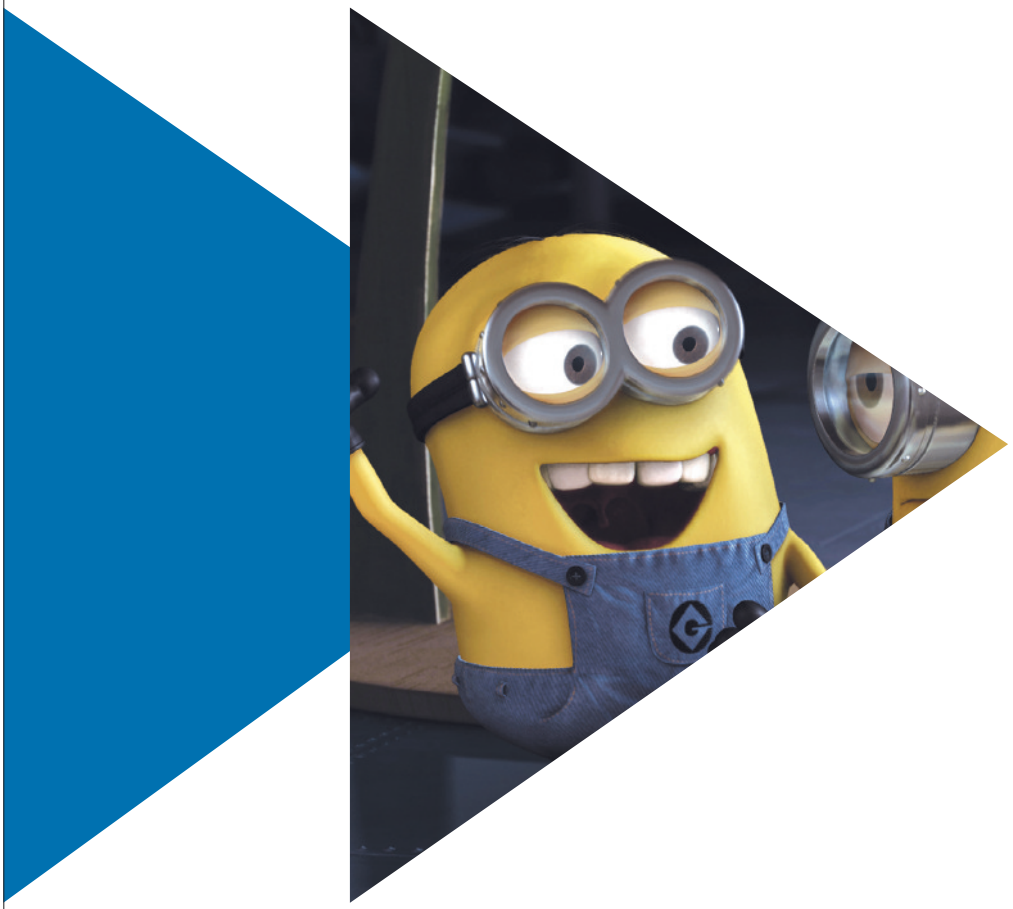

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North York Sheridan Mall
Sheppard Centre
Yorkgate Mall

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Hampshire Gate at Dundas
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Tories target Richmond Hill — a Liberal stronghold

Incumbent Bryon Wilfert says he's unfazed as Conservatives eye the 'very ethnic' riding

Election 2011

Breaking through

A Conservative party document leaked earlier this month names Richmond Hill as one of 10 ridings across the country dominated by a single minority ethnic group that the Tories hope to win. Nearly 25 per cent of the population is of Chinese heritage, according to the 2006 census.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Richmond Hill incumbent, Liberal MP Bryon Wilfert, canvasses inside of Hillcrest Mall yesterday, running into supporter Heidi Kreiner. Wilfert has held the riding comfortably since its inception in 2004, but he's surrounded by Conservatives.

The Conservatives can target Richmond Hill and its prized "very ethnic" voters all they want. Bryon Wilfert says he isn't going anywhere.

"I don't worry about who runs," said the veteran Liberal MP, who won the riding comfortably in 2008 with 47 per cent of the vote.

"I'm only interested in if I've done the job between elections, then the election is simply a validation of the work we've done."

Wilfert is the definition of an entrenched incumbent.

He has held public office in Richmond Hill for more than one-quarter of a century, having been first elected to the town's council in 1985 and serving as the area's member of Parliament since 1997.

He is well-known in the riding and, as national defence critic, is also prominent nationally.

"One would assume you wouldn't target a riding where you lost by 13 or 14 per cent," Wilfert said.

Conservative Chungsen Leung trailed Wilfert by 11.3 percentage points in 2008.

"I've had Conservatives say, 'We'll win your riding when you either die or retire,'" he added later.

Confirmed as the Conservative candidate late last week, Costas Menegakis has yet to open a campaign office or launch his website. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

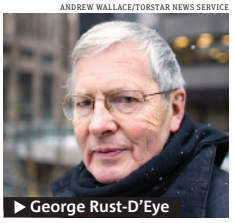
Fading popularity

Since 2000, when Bryon Wilfert garnered 59 per cent of the vote, his support has decreased a little with each election, as a succession of Conservative candidates chipped away at his dominance.

The 2008 campaign was the first in which Wilfert did not win a majority. Conservative candidate Costas Menegakis hopes it continues. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Law expert slams 'vague' code of conduct

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ George Rust-D'Eye

Brampton's new code of conduct is supposed to guarantee that residents have a strong tool to hold their councillors accountable. But a municipal law expert in Mississauga says what was pushed through by the city's manager this week allows no such thing.

"It's kind of saying, 'Do good things,'" George Rust-D'Eye said. "Other than a section on confidentiality, there are no rules. And it's expressed in such vague language that it would be impossible for an integrity commissioner to investigate anything else or find any breaches under it."

Coun. George Carlson said he and other councillors were involved in almost every detail of the new code of conduct, which came about in response to questions about Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion's involvement in her son's land dealings. It advises councillors on situations that aren't addressed in existing provincial or federal legislation. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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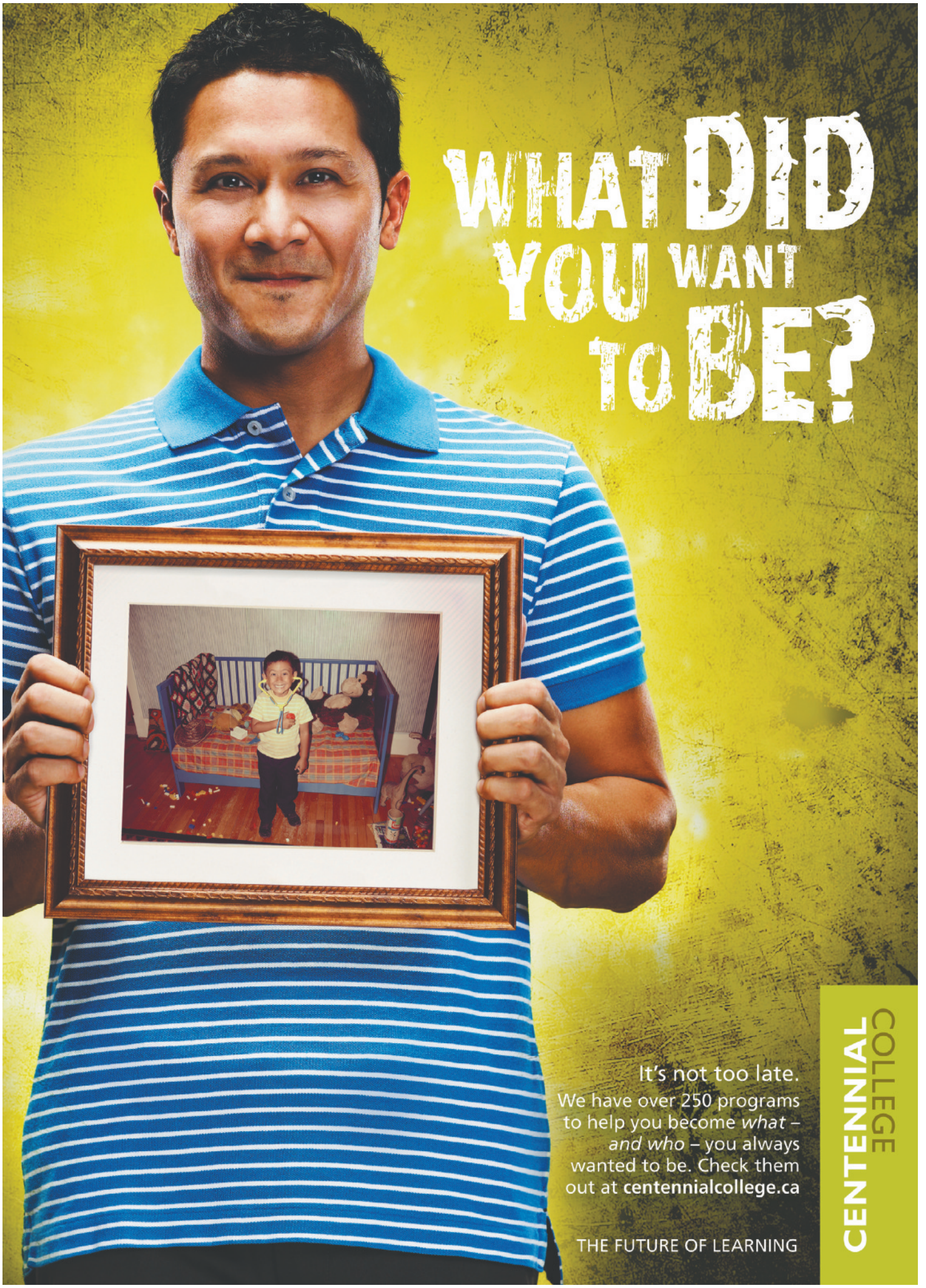
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Tories dump another aide

Party had cut ties with Giulio Maturi two years ago Montreal organizer was connected to controversial construction magnate Tony Accurso

Election 2011

For the second day in a row, the Conservative campaign has lost a volunteer amid controversy.

That frustration led to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's entourage announcing another election policy: for the duration of the campaign, it will no longer be taking questions about the party's 308 local candidates.

That declaration came after Harper was confronted yesterday with queries about a local Montreal organizer.

Harper was asked at a news conference why Giulio Maturi was working as campaign manager for a well-connected Tory candidate in the city.

The party had cut ties with this same organizer less than two years ago, after the Montreal mayoral candidate he used to work for made stunning allegations of kickbacks and cash-stuffed envelopes.

Maturi was never accused of any wrongdoing, but was connected to controversial construction magnate Tony Accurso.

Two of Accurso's companies were recently convicted of tax evasion.

"On that guy, I don't know the details. They tell me he's no longer a volunteer in our campaign," Harper told reporters.

The opposition tried to make hay in the House of Commons with the revelation last year that Maturi had been organizing a fundraiser for Evereklian.

"In October 2009, the Conservatives claimed to have burned its bridges to Giulio Maturi, a political organizer with a checkered past. But we have learned that this individual is still involved with the Conservative Party," Bloc MP Michel Guimond said last June.

The Conservatives are hoping to break onto the island of Montreal this election. Their seats are concentrated around Quebec City and in more rural regions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Election policy

Stephen Harper's director of communications Dimitri Soudas told reporters that the national campaign would not be answering questions about the 308 local campaigns.

This was one day after Harper faced similar questions about an Edmonton volunteer who is the subject of an RCMP probe over interference with an Access to Information request.

Greens up for TV or courtroom debate

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

Federal Green party Leader Elizabeth May is determined to have her way. Whether by stirring up public outrage or taking action through the courts, May is challenging the television networks that snubbed her from an upcoming election leaders debate head-on.

"The airwaves are not the private domain of the media consortium," May said during a press conference in Vancouver.

"I'm shocked by this decision. Because of a programming decision, they've decided that the Greens should not be at the debate."

The B.C. Saanich-Gulf Islands candidate is hoping public outcry will be enough to have broadcasters change their mind, but is willing to take her fight to court if need be.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ Elizabeth May

"It's anti-democratic. Almost one million people voted for us in the last election," she said.

"What's at stake here are not the fortunes of the Green party, but whether Canada has a full, healthy modern democracy."

The party has hired a charter of rights lawyer to argue its case.

"We're seeing a groundswell but if we have to, we can get to court on an emergency basis to get a ruling before the debate takes place," said May.

"We are in a very tight spot in defending democracy. If we don't see a reversal, we will be forced to go to court."

A date for the televised leaders' debate has not yet been set.

For more news: metronews.ca/toronto

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ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper practises a swing with a cricket bat as he watches the India versus Pakistan cricket match yesterday during a campaign stop in Brampton.

NDP candidate quits to help Liberal win

An NDP candidate in London has pulled out of the election race to support his Liberal opponent — a blow to the New Democrats' strategic-voting strategy.

Ryan Dolby announced yesterday that he will support Liberal Graham Warwick in Elgin-Middlesex-London. He told radio station AM980 that he didn't want to split the vote and allow Conservative Joe Preston to win.

The move took the national NDP and Liberals by surprise. The Liberals were happy. The NDP, not so much.

NDP Leader Jack Layton said the party will have another candidate in place within 48 hours so that voters in the riding have a true choice.

Layton has boldly encouraged voters to think strategically in order to defeat Harper, but he was hoping the NDP would be the beneficiary of that plan. He didn't anticipate that his appeal would come back to haunt him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Liberal

▶ Ryan Dolby

Dolby ran for the NDP in 2008, finishing third with 9,135 votes.

- **Dolby** said he did not discuss his decision with New Democrat officials.
- "I think it's the best decision on behalf of my family, my community, and my country to do whatever I can to make sure there isn't a Conservative victory, especially in this riding," he told AM980.
- **Jack Layton** insisted there are fundamental differences between the NDP and the Liberals in the election campaign.

Layton promises $2.3B for jobs, small businesses

NDP leader makes announcement in Oshawa, which has been hard hit by collapse of auto sector

The NDP wants to dedicate $2.3 billion to a job-creation plan that would lower taxes for small business and provide a tax credit for companies that take on new hires.

Leader Jack Layton says he'd pay for the package by reversing Conservative cuts to the corporate tax rate.

Layton would push the corporate tax rate back up to the 19.5 per cent of 2008, instead of the 16.5 per cent under recent cuts by the Tory government.

The NDP figures the corporate income-tax reversal would give Ottawa an extra $5.9-billion to play with.

"I'll target investment to create jobs right here at home. I'll reward the job creations," Layton said.

Specifically, the NDP would cut the small-business tax rate to nine per cent from 11. It would also set up a job-creation tax credit that would give employers up to $4,500 for each new hire. And it would extend the accelerated capital cost allowance for four more years.

"Today's announcement is a reasonable, affordable proposal that will have a direct impact on job creation," Layton said.

At the same time, Layton says he wants corporate tax rates to be competitive with the United States, pledging to keep the combined federal-provincial rate below the U.S. rate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ NDP Leader Jack Layton waves to supporters yesterday during a campaign rally in Toronto.

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SEEPAGE SPREADS

Radioactive water has begun to seep into sea Not a threat to human health, says Japan safety agency

Fears about contaminated seafood spread yesterday despite reassurances that radiation in the waters off Japan's troubled atomic plant pose no health risk, as the country's respected emperor consoled evacuees from the tsunami and nuclear emergency zone.

While experts say radioactive particles are unlikely to build up significantly in fish, the seafood concerns in the country that gave the world sushi are yet another blemish for Brand Japan. It has already been hit by contamination of milk, vegetables and water, plus shortages of auto and tech parts after a massive quake and tsunami disabled a coastal nuclear power plant.

Setbacks at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex mounted yesterday, as the plant's operator, Tokyo Power Electric Co., announced that its president was hospitalized. Masataka Shimizu has not been seen since a news conference two days after the March 11 quake that spawned the destructive wave. His absence fuelled speculation that he had suffered a breakdown.

Spokesman Naoki Tsunoda said Shimizu, 66, was admitted to a Tokyo hospital Tuesday after suffering dizziness and high blood pressure.

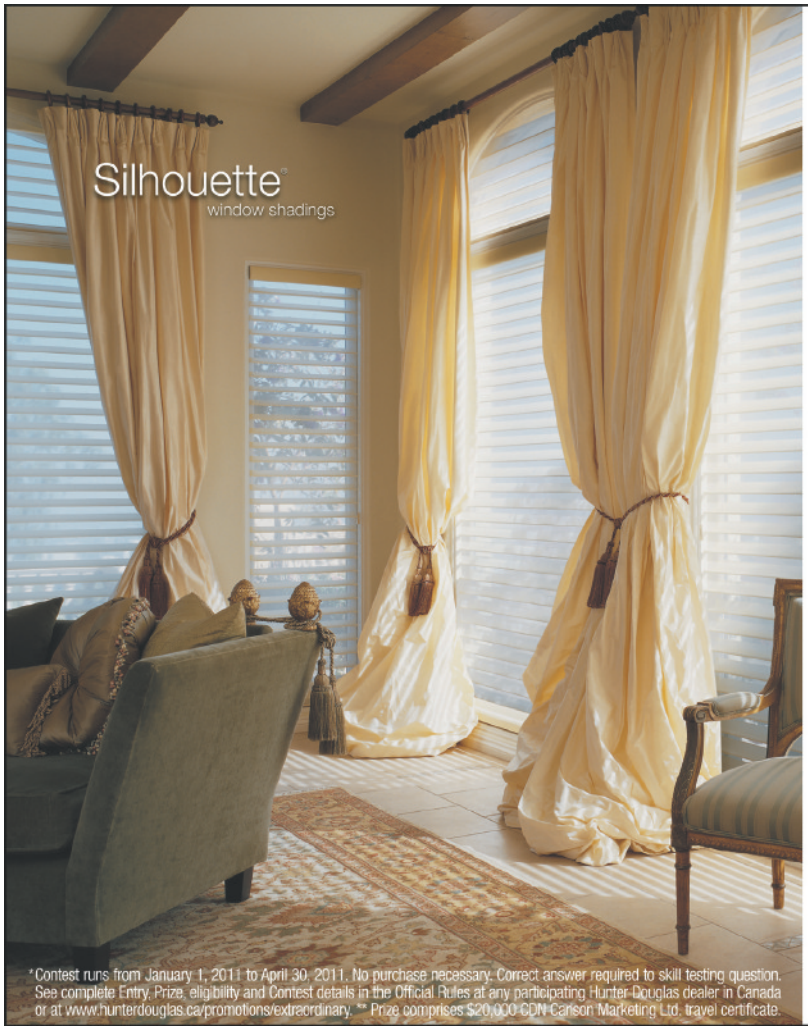
The problems at the nuclear plant have taken centre stage, but the tsunami also created another disaster: Hundreds of thousands of people were forced from their homes after the wave drove miles inland, decimating whole towns. The official death toll stood at 11,362 late yesterday, with the final toll likely surpassing 18,000.

"We have repeatedly told consumers that it is perfectly safe to eat fish."
SHOICHI TAKAYAMA, OFFICIAL WITH JAPAN'S FISHERY AGENCY

Japan's respected Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited disaster evacuees at a centre in Tokyo yesterday. The visit was marked by a formality that is typical of interactions with the royal couple, but survivors said they were encouraged.

"I couldn't talk with them very well because I was nervous, but I felt that they were really concerned about us," said Kenji Ukito, an evacuee from a region near the plant who has already moved four times since the quake. "I was very grateful." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

▶ Tokyo Electric Power Co. chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata, centre, and others bow before a news conference yesterday at the company's head office in Tokyo. The president of the utility that owns Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear complex was hospitalized with hypertension as setbacks mounted at the plant, where experts yesterday logged the highest radiation yet in nearby seawater.



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FEAR

ITSUO INOUYE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Radiation spikes outside evacuation zone

Recent radiation readings outside the exclusion zone around Japan's nuclear disaster show radiation substantially higher than levels at which the UN nuclear agency would recommend evacuations, agency officials said yesterday.

The comments could add to the debate over how far people need to stay away from Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex, which was crippled in the country's March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Elena Buglova, an official from the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the reading was 2 megabecquerels per square metre at the village of Iitate, adding that "as a ratio it was about two times higher" than levels at which the agency recommends evacuations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minimal risk

- Richard Morin, a medical physicist with the American College of Radiation, said the agency's evacuation limits are "intended to be extremely conservative," and that none of the levels found would pose a risk to human health. They all fell well below the radiation contained in a heart scan.

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Libyan rebels suffer setbacks

Gadhafi reaching deeper into military ranks to send reinforcements onto battlefield Obama administration left with difficult decisions

Fresh battlefield setbacks by rebels seeking to oust Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi are hardening a U.S. view that the poorly equipped opposition is probably incapable of prevailing without decisive Western intervention — either an all-out U.S.-led military assault on regime forces or a decision to arm the rebels.

Gadhafi has adopted new, unconventional tactics to counter the effects of coalition air strikes, and apparently is convinced he can retain power by gradually retaking a degree of control of eastern Libya, a senior U.S. intelligence official said yesterday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence on the condition and capabilities of regime and rebel forces.

U.S. officials believe Gadhafi's military has suffered major losses since Western intervention began March 19, in addition to grounding his air force. But Gadhafi's land forces still outmatch the opposition by a wide margin and are not close to being forced to stop threatening the civilian resistance, the senior U.S. intelligence official said.

That leaves the Obama administration with difficult calculations about the way ahead.

Yesterday, rebels under heavy shelling pulled back further eastward from the oil port of Ras Lanouf. Gadhafi's forces were shelling Brega, another important oil city to the east.

Helping propel the Gadhafi forces eastward was a change in battlefield tactics, the senior U.S. intelligence official said. Having seen much of their armour pounded by Western air strikes earlier, Gadhafi commanders left many tanks and other armour in hiding places in Sirte and advanced eastward instead with small convoys of sedans, minivans, SUVs and other civilian vehicles that the official called "battle wagons" armed with small rockets and other weaponry.

This made it harder for Western pilots to distinguish the Gadhafi troops as military formations and lightened the logistics load for the Gadhafi forces.

In public, the Obama administration has stuck to its view that progress is being made in preventing Gadhafi from attacking or threatening to attack civilians. But many in Congress question whether the administration has a plan to adjust its approach in the event that the opposition forces collapse entirely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Libyan rebel checks a rocket launcher mounted on top of a pickup truck yesterday after retreating east to the outskirts of the town of al-Agila.

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NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gadhafi regime will prevail: U.S. official

The Obama administration has publicly resisted the notion that Moammar Gadhafi is likely to prevail in this conflict, stating as U.S. policy that he has lost legitimacy and must go.

The top U.S. intelligence official, James Clapper, contradicted the White House line when he told senators March 10 that the Libyan government's military might was stronger than some had believed. Clapper said there was no indication that Gadhafi would step down and offer a speedy resolution to the crisis that began in February as civil unrest that toppled authoritarian leaders in neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt spread across the Arab world.

"This is kind of a stalemate back and forth, but I think over the longer term that the (Gadhafi) regime will prevail," Clapper said.

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First Nation evacuates amid floods

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

▶ Beatrice Anderson, left, with volunteer Dolly Martin. Anderson left Dauphin River due to flood fears.

Dauphin River resident says floods force her to flee her small Manitoba community every spring More than half of the 70 residents have fled

About twice a year, for the past 10 years, Dauphin River First Nation in Manitoba has been evacuated, said the chief and community members yesterday.

Beatrice Anderson was one of about 40 residents who drove to Winnipeg from Dauphin River Monday before flooding cut off the only access to the small Interlake reserve — Highway 513 east of Gypsumville.

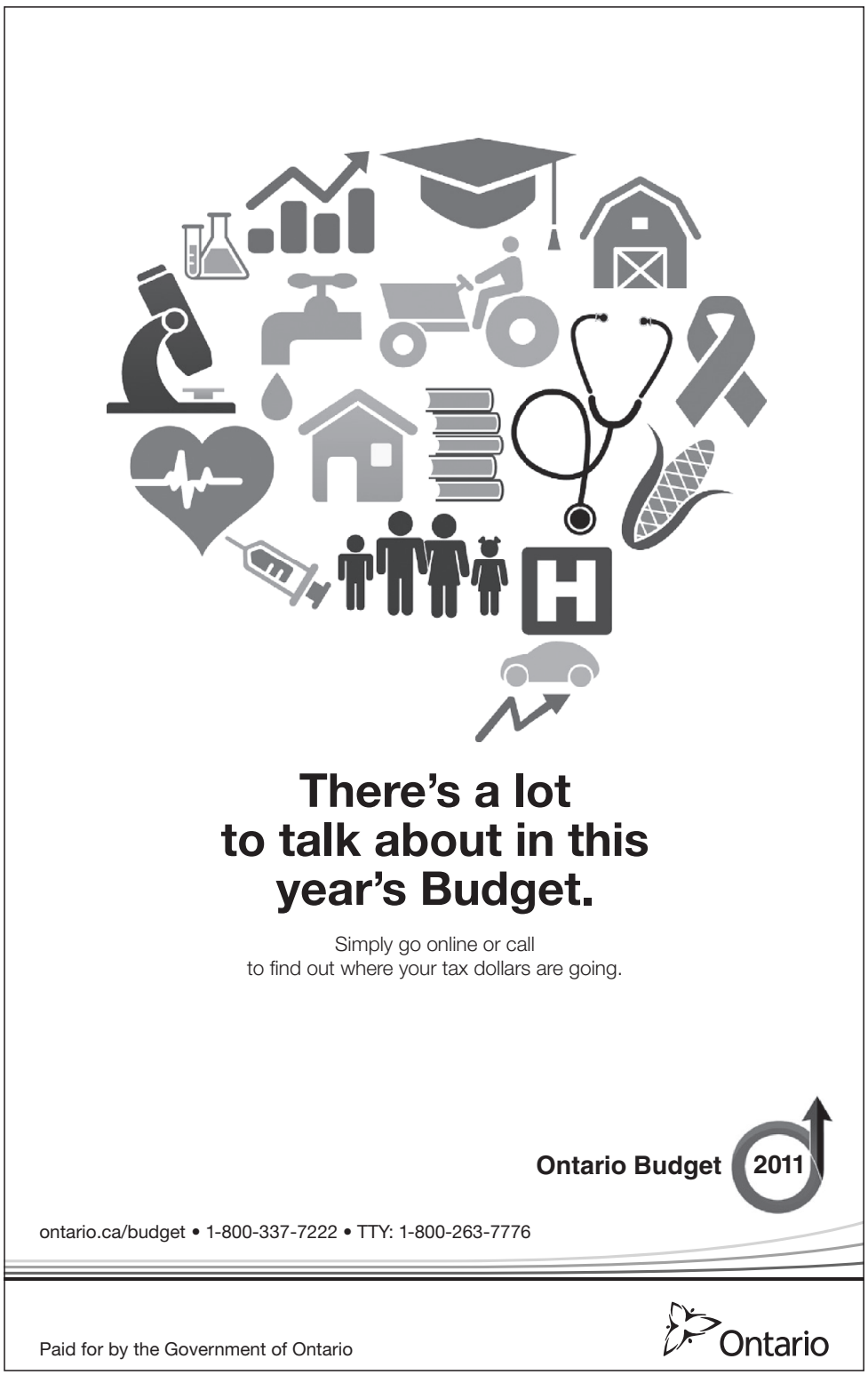
Now she's worried about her daughter, who stayed behind.

"My daughter is diabetic, but they have no choice now, they're stranded there," Anderson said.

Thirteen evacuees are staying at Motel One in Winnipeg. They are being looked after by Dolly Martin, who volunteers with the Manitoba Association of Native Firefighters.

"This pretty much happens every year throughout the flood and the fire season," said Martin.

JESSICA SMITH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TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Tim Hudak

Liberals wager on Leafs before Hudak

The Toronto Maple Leafs were dragged into the political arena yesterday as debate over the Ontario budget got heated.

It began when Opposition Leader Tim Hudak went on the attack against Tuesday's budget, mocking government assertions that most families are better off financially under the Liberals.

"That's right up there with the likelihood of the Toronto Maple Leafs winning the Stanley Cup in 2011," Hudak said in the legislature.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan, sitting in for an absent Premier Dalton McGuinty, couldn't resist taking his own shot at Hudak, also using the NHL club's lengthy Stanley Cup drought as a reference point.

"I'll make one prediction," Duncan told the legislature. "The Toronto Maple Leafs will win a Stanley Cup long before he's premier of Ontario."

The Leafs haven't hoisted hockey's most coveted trophy since 1967.

However, the Liberal finance minister had a new name for Hudak yesterday after the Tories cancelled a conference set for next month in order to help Prime Minister Stephen Harper's federal Conservatives get re-elected May 2.

"Junior Hudak took orders from Mr. Harper to cancel his policy convention, so we won't get to find out about their plan," said Duncan. "It's probably empty anyway, other than cuts to health care and education."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OLG pays out most of disputed $50M prize

After two months of waiting, a group of Toronto-area Bombardier employees are officially millionaires.

Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. presented cheques yesterday to the winners from the Jan. 28 $50-million Lotto Max jackpot.

Each of the 24 winners is getting a little more than $1.9 million, including about $2,400 in interest.

The payout was withheld while lottery officials investigated after additional claimants came forward. All but two of those claims have been rejected, and OLG divided the jackpot into 26 shares — two of which will be held by the court until the claims are decided.

It's not the only disputed jackpot win. A group of 19 Bell Canada workers won $50 million in a draw last Dec. 31, but a portion of that jackpot is the subject of a lawsuit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Syrian President Bashar Assad addresses parliament yesterday in Damascus. He blames a foreign conspiracy for the unrest sweeping the country.

Syrian leader defiant

Social networking sites explode with calls for Syrians to take to the streets after Bashar Assad fails to announce expected reforms

Syria's president dashed hopes that he would announce sweeping reforms yesterday and instead took a tough line, blaming two weeks of popular fury on a foreign conspiracy.

Bashar Assad's own officials billed his speech as an introduction of major change, and the turnaround infuriated protesters who vowed to keep up with their cries for reform.

The conflicting messages also raised questions about a possible rift in the regime controlled by Assad and a tight coterie of family and security services.

"Syria is being subjected to a major conspiracy," Assad said in his first address since the turmoil began, touched off by the arrest of teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall. Human rights groups say more than 60 people have been killed since March 18 in security crackdowns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A woman and baby arrive for Sunday dinner last month at the Bountiful, B.C., home of polygamist sect leader Winston Blackmore.

Religious polygamy an instrument of control: Crown

Polygamy that is motivated by religion is far more harmful than secular multiple marriage, a B.C. government lawyer says.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia is examining the constitutionality of Canada's law against polygamy. The provincial and federal governments have argued in closing submissions that the practice is inherently harmful and the law should be upheld.

Critics of the law, including residents of the polygamous commune of Bountiful, B.C., claim the ban infringes on their religious freedom and targets polygamists because of their faith.

But B.C. government lawyer Craig Jones insists polygamy is illegal because it is harmful to women and children, regardless of whether it's a religious practice. In fact, he says, polygamy as an expression of religion is more harmful because religion is used as an instrument of control.

He also rejects the argument that the secrecy in Bountiful would disappear if polygamy were decriminalized, saying the community would still cover up crimes that have been linked to polygamous sects, such as child sexual abuse and human trafficking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach says it's good news that U.S. President Barack Obama recognizes Canada as a safe, stable supplier of oil.

Obama wants Canadian crude

U.S. hopes to rely less on foreign oil ◐ Seeks Canadian oil to fill gap

The premier of oil-rich Alberta has given the thumbs-up to a U.S. plan to become less reliant on foreign crude.

U.S. President Barack Obama says he wants to cut American oil imports by one-third by 2025, but Canada will continue to be a key partner.

Obama called for a one-third cut in oil imports.

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach says it's good news that Obama recognizes Canada as a safe, stable supplier of oil.

He said the relationship is important economically to Canada, bringing in billions in tax revenue and supporting thousands of jobs.

Tom Huffaker, a vice-president at the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, is also encouraged by Obama's remarks.

He said Obama's specific mention of Canada shows the United States sees our country as part of the solution, not part of the problem.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Libyan air strike costly: U.S. report

A U.S. congressional report estimates the bombardment of Libya has cost Washington between $400 million and $1 billion, but suggests the financial pressure will ease as allies, including Canada, take a greater role in enforcing the United Nations no-fly zone.

The study, dated Monday but released online yesterday, was a quick snapshot of the air war for an increasingly cost-conscious U.S. administration, which has been publicly eager to hand off control of the war to NATO.

The Congressional Research Service qualifies the assessment by saying the numbers remain "highly unpredictable because of uncertainty about the duration of the conflict" and how long American forces will remain involved.

"U.S. costs of continued enforcement of a no-fly zone might be quite limited, since Libyan air operations appear to have ceased," said the 33-page report.

"U.S. expenses for maintaining a no-fly zone would be further constrained if allies carry out most of the ongoing air operations."

The study gets into the nitty-gritty detail of counting Tomahawk missile barrages and individual B-2 bomber runs.

Each guided missile costs about $1 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ This Tomahawk cruise missile was launched Tuesday to support the international response to the unrest in Libya.

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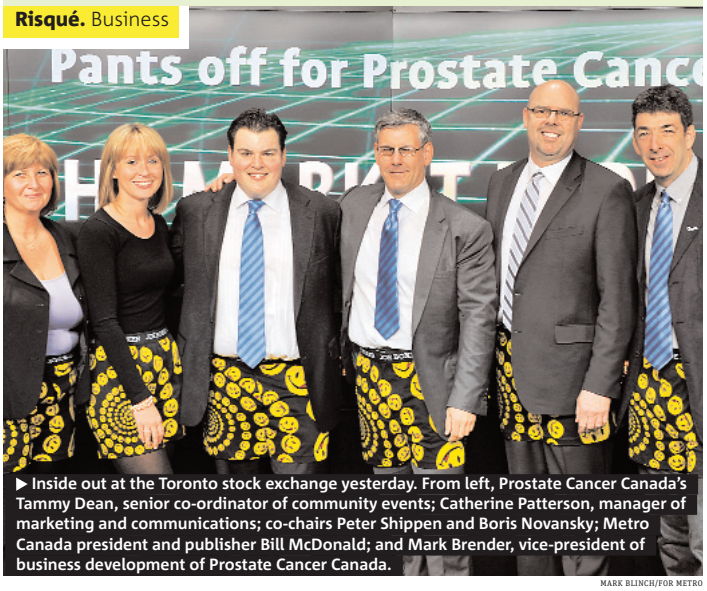

▶ Inside out at the Toronto stock exchange yesterday. From left, Prostate Cancer Canada's Tammy Dean, senior co-ordinator of community events; Catherine Patterson, manager of marketing and communications; co-chairs Peter Shippen and Boris Novansky; Metro Canada president and publisher Bill McDonald; and Mark Brender, vice-president of business development of Prostate Cancer Canada.

MARK BLINCH/FOR METRO

Caught with their pants down

You could say they hold no brief with cancer: More than 350 business leaders dropped their drawers for the cure last night at the second annual Pants Off For Prostate Cancer Canada. The innovative fundraiser, sponsored in part by Presenting Media Sponsor Metro Canada, was held at Toronto's Burroughes Building. One in six Canadian men will be diagnosed with the disease, and that number is expected to rise to one in four. For more information, go to prostatecancer.ca.

Readers choose Metro

As total daily newspaper readership numbers hold steady, Metro Toronto continues to grow, according to results released yesterday by the Newspaper Audience Databank (NADbank).

Metro Toronto now reaches 538,200 daily and 1,092,200 weekly readers in the Toronto CMA, according to NADbank's 2010 single-year results. Compared to 2009 results, this represents an increase of 52,300, or 11 per cent, daily readers and 91,500, or nine per cent, weekly readers.

"Metro Toronto is read by more than half a million Torontonians every day," said Bill McDonald, president of Metro English Canada and publisher of Metro Toronto. "Why? Continuous innovation. Increased coverage of news that matters to readers, fresh new columnists, enhanced distribution strategies and creative marketing initiatives have all contributed to readership growth." METRO

Promote women or pay the price: Germany

Proposed law would see 30 per cent more women managers by 2013

Germany's 30 leading industrial companies pledged yesterday to recruit and promote more women, especially in top management jobs, but remained at odds with the government over how best to do it.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet has released the outline of a program aimed at pressuring the private sector to better promote qualified women by 30 per cent by 2013. The new measures will also include legislation that would bring sanctions against firms that fail to boost their numbers of female managers.

In 2001, German companies agreed to promote more women, with little to show for it a decade later.

The companies argue that it is important to recruit younger women into lower level jobs and groom them to move up, while the government insists that more women in upper management will have a trickle-down effect.

Given the technology-heavy emphasis of many of Germany's leading companies, they say they face a legitimate challenge of finding enough women qualified to work for them.

"The most helpful thing for us would be to see more women in technical professions," said Siemens personnel director Brigitte Ederer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IT'S NO LONGER A TAXING SITUATION

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

I've decided that from now on I will embrace tax time.

If I get stuck on a convoluted tax form filled with Rumsfeldian unknown unknowns, I will accept it as a moment of Zen, staring into an emptiness I cannot begin to understand.

If the government sends me a message that my taxes were completed incorrectly, I will welcome it as the annual tradition it is — a family postcard from Big Brother.

And if I get audited, then I shall enjoy the warm childhood memories of being curled up in the fetal position.

Taxes are all about how you look at them. I have thought on multiple occasions that, though death and taxes are two sure things in life, at least death only happens once.

But, as tax season begins, I have revised my opinion as can be seen on schedule T1-ADJ T1 Adjustment Request Form, which is attached to your copy of Metro.

I am filing my change of heart under, "If you can't beat them, join them" because, like most people, I can't actually improve my tax experience because I don't understand my tax experience.

I fill out the boxes and get a response, yes, but it doesn't mean anything to me. I might as well be shaking a Revenue Canada 8-ball that says, "All signs point to amount owing."

Sure, I can use an accountant, but that's just handing it off to a person who will give me advice that I will pretend to understand. I will then respond with a thoughtful "Uh-huh" that I hope adequately dresses up my actual thought, which is, "Huh?"

"Taxes are all about how you look at them. I have thought on multiple occasions that, though death and taxes are two sure things in life, at least death only happens once."

I can't cheat on my taxes, either. I've known people who would gladly write off condoms if they were sleeping their way to the top, but economic deception has never been an option for me. I couldn't cheat on my taxes any more than I could cheat on an exam written in Sanskrit.

So all that's left is accepting my plight. I will think of my taxes in a positive light, because what other choice do I have? I see it this way now: I go into a tax office, I give a strange person papers that I don't understand, and in return that person usually gives me hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars in return.

Pretty sweet, right?

Right?

If this new approach doesn't work out for me, I'll be in the fetal position. It's my own choice of tax shelter.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Feline's powerful purr

Worth mentioning

Thunderous tabby

ALISDAIR TAIT/NORTHAMPTON COLLEGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A British community college has recorded a house cat named Smokey whose lawnmower-like purr hit 73 decibels, which is 16 times louder than the average feline.

Northampton College in central England said yesterday it received a request from Smokey's owner, Ruth Adams, to provide the equipment needed to file a world record application.

The college agreed, dispatching a team with special sound equipment to record Smokey purring in the comfort of Adams' home in the nearby village of Pitsford, about 110 kilometres northwest of London.

The 12-year-old grey-and-white tabby has already made several media appearances, with journalists comparing the purr to the sound of a Boeing 747 from a mile away. A video posted to the cat's website made it sound more like the cooing of an angry dove.

The recording has now been submitted to Guinness World Records for vetting. Guinness World Records spokeswoman Amarilis Whitty said she was "anxiously waiting" for the recording to see if it meets the group's standards.

See Smokey's website at smokeythepurring cat.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What odd things can your pet do?

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Metro Minute at Raindrops

Tomorrow is the first day of April, and you know what that brings, right? Well, yes, that's true; snow is a definite possibility. But we were thinking more along the lines of rain. Lots of cold, miserable rain.

Here in Toronto we're not always prepared for sky showers. We're not even prepared for snow half the time. Well, except for our military. But Bobi Jurcic wants to change that. Her store, Raindrops, located inside the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, is the only local business dedicated to our city's precipitation levels. From stylish raincoats, hats, and more umbrellas than a Rihanna chorus, this sweet boutique will help you get through the rain season without fear of a bad hair season.

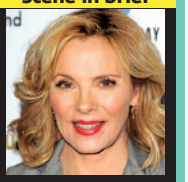
JORDANA DIVON

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Raindrops (100 Front St. W.) wants to make sure you have something stylish to cover your head with through April. Visit raindropsto.com for store hours.

2 scene

Scene in brief



After 12 years playing sultry screen vixen Samantha Jones on Sex and the City, Kim Cattrall says she's "letting it all hang out" in her new role as a has-been porn star.

Cattrall gained 20 pounds for the title role in the indie film Meet Monica Velour, about a washed up, aging porn star living in a rural Indiana trailer park.

"It was actually kind of a relief," the 54-year-old actress said Tuesday in an interview. "It was like getting rid of the Barbie doll and throwing it out and starting again."

She said packing on the pounds for Monica Velour was her fist break from dieting in 25 years and was "wonderful."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not summoned to sing: Judge says suggestion that Willie Nelson sing in court was a joke

▶ Items from the One of a Kind Craft show, clockwise from top left: A blue teapot and tentacle teacups from Filipa Pimental; a Bantam Interlocking Cedar Deck Chair from Peter Trollope of LIM Furniture Design; pillows from Shuyu Lu.

A one of a kind experience

Get away from cookie-cutter style and add some individuality to your home or office ◐ Even the booths themselves become works of art

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

Those seeking to break the cycle of cookie-cutter fashions and pre-fab furniture should look no further than the One of a Kind Show. Running through Sunday at the Direct Energy Centre, the One of a Kind Show showcases a bevy of work from hundreds of local artists and artisans, including photography, jewelry, hom decor, fashion and furniture.

"There's really something for everybody," says Patti Stewart, the show's director.

The show began in Toronto for the 1975 Christmas season, featuring 88 crafts people peddling ceramics, weaving and woodwork, and later expanded to include a spring show in 1979. In her 23 years with the show, Stewart has seen a lot of changes, including a mainstreaming of the values espoused by organizers and participants.

"I think there's a lot more awareness now and people relate to buying directly from the maker," she says. "There's been a backlash; people don't want to buy things that are mass produced."

Peter Trollope, who runs LIM Furniture Designs, agrees. "I think people are beginning to realize that a throwaway society isn't sustainable."

But while creating items locally and independently is what makes One of a Kind artists stand out from the Gaps and Ikeas of the world, that edge is gone when thrown together with another 800 designers adhering to the same principles.

Standing out is difficult, says Trollope, and transforming your stark five-by-10 foot booth into a specialty boutique can go a long way. Ultimately though, it comes down to the uniqueness of the product that each artist sells, something the One of a Kind Show has in abundance.

"There's no end to the creativity," says Stewart.

Scrabble

- All shopped out from the One of a Kind Show? Why not relax with a star studded game of Scrabble.
- The Performing Arts Lodge of Toronto's annual Scrabble With The Stars fundraiser is going down Monday at the Arcadian Court. Featuring actor Gordon Pinsent and comedian Colin Mochrie, the $150 tickets include dinner and a chance to "have words with your favourite star."

Prosecutors drop battery charges against Lohan

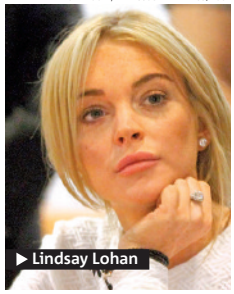
Lindsay Lohan has one less legal worry after prosecutors announced Tuesday that they would not pursue any charges against her over a December scuffle with a rehab worker.

Riverside County District Attorney's spokesman John Hall said prosecutors determined there was insufficient evidence to pursue a misdemeanour battery case against the actress.

Police were called to a Betty Ford Center facility in Palm Desert around 1 a.m. on Dec. 12 after a worker accused Lohan of hurting her during an altercation. The worker, Dawn Holland, later spoke about the incident on camera with TMZ and was fired by Betty Ford for violating patient confidentiality rules.

Lohan was nearing the end of her three-month court-ordered treatment at the centre after violating her probation on a 2007 drunken driving case.

MARIO ANZUONI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, POOL



▶ Lindsay Lohan

Prosecutors had sought further investigation from police agencies that responded to the call, but ultimately found there was not enough evidence to file charges.

The Mean Girls star faces a far more serious case in Los Angeles, where she is accused of felony grand theft after a jewelry store claimed she took a $2,500 necklace without permission.

Lohan has pleaded not guilty and her attorney has said she is innocent. The actress last week rejected a plea deal that included guaranteed jail time and is due in court on April 22 for a preliminary hearing during which prosecutors will lay out some of their evidence against the starlet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pirates gets a fresh story

Fans respond well to test screening of fourth Pirates movie ▶ Captain Jack seeks out the Fountain of Youth

Johnny Depp's tour guide on his Pirates of the Caribbean voyages is plotting the course for a fifth installment even before the fourth movie sails into theatres.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer says he has a screenplay in the works for a fifth Pirates tale after May's Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides comes out.

Based on the Disney theme-park ride, the original three Pirates blockbusters ended up as a trilogy continuing the same key characters and story line. Bruckheimer says On Stranger Tides and future Pirates flicks will be standalone stories continuing the adventures of Depp's woozy buccaneer Capt. Jack Sparrow.

Directed by Rob Marshall (Chicago), On Stranger Tides sends Jack on a quest for the fountain of youth. Bruckheimer and Marshall showed off footage Tuesday at CinemaCon, a Las Vegas convention of theatre owners.

At test screenings of On Stranger Tides, "the audience told us what they loved about it is that it was fresh, it was new, it was a whole new story," Bruckheimer said in an interview alongside Marshall. "So that will carry over into the next one, too, to give it something fresh and different. As long as the audience embraces this one, we'll certainly try to make another one. It's really up to Johnny. He loves the character."

Geoffrey Rush reprises his role as Jack's rival, Barbossa, who has switched sides, no longer a pirate but a privateer sailing on the orders of the British monarchy. Penelope Cruz co-stars as the fiery daughter of the pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane).

Marshall popped the question about co-starring in the Pirates sequel over dinner with Cruz while he was directing her in the musical Nine.

"She jumped out of her chair and said, 'Oh, my God. I'd love to. I've always wanted to do an adventure like this.' So it was perfect," Marshall said. "I had mentioned her to Jerry and Johnny, and immediately they said, 'Yes, that seems exactly right,' because there are not that many people that really can match him. He's so unique, and he has so many different characteristics: charisma and sex appeal. He's funny and he's athletic and he's a strong actor. So who can match that?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3-D experience

- **Action.** On Stranger Tides is the first Pirates flick shot with digital 3-D cameras. The filmmakers make good use of the 3-D imagery in action sequences, which include a shot where Cruz's character tries to stab Depp's Capt. Jack through a closed door, her sword leaping off the screen right at the audience.
- **Money.** Bruckheimer and Marshall were interested from the start in doing the movie in 3-D, which can boost revenues since fans pay a few dollars more than they do to see 2-D versions.

HANDOUT

▶ Johnny Depp is set to reprise the role of Captain Jack Sparrow in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides.

RUSSIA
IN BIBLE PROPHECY

The prophet Ezekiel foretold Russia's bid for world dominion over 2500 years ago. Is that prophecy still valid? When will it be fulfilled? Jim Cowie, a Bible student from Australia will outline events of Bible prophecy that are being fulfilled which will lead to Armageddon and the Kingdom of God on the earth.

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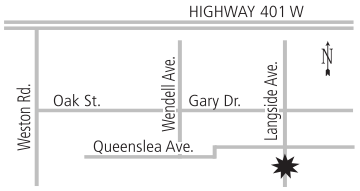

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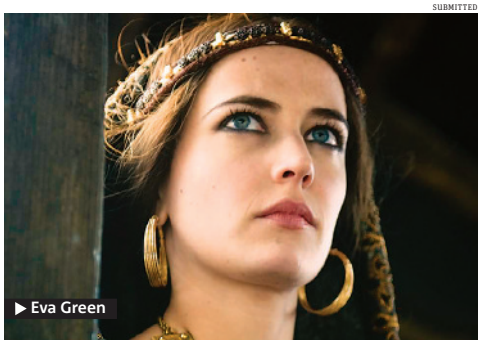

▶ Eva Green

Camelot's would-be queen

Eva Green enjoys playing a woman who knows what she wants

Eva Green loves playing strong, even dangerous women.

On the new Starz series Camelot, Green treats herself big-time — and makes the most of it.

There she is, as Morgan, in the series' opening scene, fiercely facing down King Uther, the father Morgan believes has betrayed her. Drawing on her sorcery skills, she soon will arrange the king's sudden death. She means to succeed him on the throne. And when Uther's unknown son, Arthur, emerges to claim the crown, Morgan declares war on her half brother as well as the wizard Merlin, Arthur's mysterious mentor.

"This castle and realm should be mine," she proclaims.

Camelot, a Canada-U.S.-U.K. co-production, premieres this week on the Starz network in the U.S. (It will be seen in Canada in the fall on CBC.)

It stars heartthrob Jamie Campbell Bower (the Twilight and Harry Potter film sagas) as Arthur, a carefree, impetuous young man who was raised from infancy as a commoner and is as surprised as anyone to learn his destiny: to lead Britain from a dark, troubled present into a bright, hope-filled tomorrow.

Joseph Fiennes (Shakespeare in Love, the TV series FlashForward) is Merlin, who has foreseen the legend of Arthur and aims to see it come to pass.

But Merlin and Arthur will have their hands full with Morgan as their rival.

"This pretender who wears my father's robes, I shall gouge his eyes," seethes Morgan just before first meeting Arthur, whom she mocks as if he were a child.

"I was worried at the beginning that she is evil and that's it," says Green, as she laughs at Morgan's confrontational style. "But she's a very rich character. And she wants to be a great queen. She believes in equality between men and women. She celebrates sexuality, nature, life.

"And the relationship between Morgan and Arthur will evolve. She hates him at the beginning. But her head is telling her, 'I hate him,' while her heart is telling her otherwise."

The 30-year-old Green, who was born in Paris to a dentist father and actress mother, Marlene Jobert, is perhaps best known for her 2006 role as tough-and-dishy "Bond Girl Vesper Lynd in Casino Royale, opposite Daniel Craig.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I like extreme, intense roles. There's always something wrong with my characters."
EVA GREEN

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TV picks

Healing power of music

SPECIAL. Get ready for Grey's Anatomy — the musical. Tonight's special episode has the cast breaking out into song after a "cataclysmic event" rattles the doctors of Seattle Grace. It's a Callie-heavy storyline with Sara Ramirez's character on the verge of a life-changing moment with Arizona. Songs featured include Grey's anthems Chasing Cars, How to Save a Life and The Story. (CTV, ABC)

Watch out for Mandel's mobs

SPECIAL TOO. More music erupts on the Howie Mandel show, Mobbed.

This reality special is said to combine Glee-style musical numbers with flash mobs, hidden cameras and a surprise announcement for an unsuspecting target. In tonight's hour-long spectacle, Mandel and hundreds of strangers drum up over-the-top ways to propose, announce a pregnancy and deliver a job offer. (Fox) THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sheen's tweets are scaring ex Richards

Source says she has increased security after threatening tweets from ex Charlie Sheen

After ex-husband Charlie Sheen's angry tirade against her on Twitter, Denise Richards has reportedly upped the security at her home, according to Popeater.

"She wants [daughters] Sam and Lola to have normal lives, but after the recent threats and verbal attacks, she has increased her security," a source says. "When you are dealing with a mad man, it's better to be safe than sorry."

Sheen's over-the-top behaviour on Twitter reportedly has Richards worried.

"Denise has learned how to deal with the name-calling, but once you start tweeting pictures of yourself with knives and saying you wished someone would die it's a totally different game," the source says. "Denise is no longer angry — she's scared." METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE

Denise Richards

Jennifer Aniston

Aniston to direct part of breast cancer anthology

Jennifer Aniston is stepping behind the camera to direct part of Project Five, an anthology of short films for Lifetime TV, according to Deadline Hollywood.

Demi Moore and Alicia Keys are also taking the reigns for sections of the project, which addresses how breast cancer effects people's lives.

"Our hope with Project Five is to entertain, inform and inspire dialogue, research and prevention," Aniston says in a statement.

"We want these films to move people and empower those affected by breast cancer to stand tall through this challenge, which impacts all of our lives, no matter who we are." METRO

Taylor charmed Farrell

During the final years of her life, Elizabeth Taylor struck up a close friendship with actor Colin Farrell — so close that, at her request, Farrell recited a poem at her funeral last week, according to Access Hollywood.

"How did we become friends? You know, the old story of boy meets girl, and boy pesters girl with too many phone calls at inappropriate hours of the night," Farrell says of his friendship with Taylor. "I was just lucky enough to become her friend in the last year and a half. I adore her still." METRO

Colin Farrell

Paris is happy with herself

Paris Hilton, the woman who perfected the art of being famous for being famous, says she has met all of her professional goals.

The heiress-turned-TV star, who was in Mexico on Tuesday to promote a new line of shoes, says she doesn't fear being overshadowed by Kim Kardashian or any other reality show rival with her own fragrance, B-movies, sex tape and autobiography, all by age 30.

"There's so many people out there who try to imitate what I do but I am the original," Hilton said in an interview with The Associated Press. "There is nothing like me." ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris Hilton

Talking points

Baby #5 for Federline

PEOPLE. Fatherhood seems to suit Kevin Federline, as the former backup dancer is expecting a child with girlfriend Victoria Prince, according to People magazine. The baby will be his fifth. He had two children with ex-wife Britney Spears and another two with ex-girlfriend Shar Jackson. He and Prince have been dating since 2008, though there's no word if they plan on tying the knot. METRO

Tour? What tour?

CONFUSION. Enrique Iglesias won't be joining Britney Spears on an upcoming tour despite her announcement that he would.

Spears said Tuesday morning on ABC's Good Morning America that the pair would be hitting the road together.

Iglesias representative Gary Mantoosh said later in a statement to The Associated Press his client and Spears won't tour "despite initial reports based on formal discussions of the possible run."

The statement says Iglesias "is very sorry for the confusion this might have caused to anyone." It says the Latin singer respects Spears and is a fan of her work.

Igelesias is on tour in Europe.

Spears on Tuesday released her seventh album, Femme Fatale. Her U.S. tour kicks off June 17 in Sacramento, Calif.

A representative for the pop singer hasn't returned an email seeking comment. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrity tweets

Bree Olson [@Bree Olson]
I'd love to live in a cottage in the woods. Deep in the country. To just have all the bare essentials and live off the land. Day dreams

Samantha Ronson [@samantha ronson]
i love when the internet makes me a super hero- i was home at the same time i was at dinner. pix of me leaving dinner last night win. PROOF

Jonah Hill [@JonahHill]
I have half as many followers as @Jesus. That is such bulls---. That guy hasn't been funny in years.

Steve Martin [@Steve MartinToGo]
At last, it's balmy in New York City. Almost 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Stripping down to T, shorts and flip-flops. METRO

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3 life

The rebirth of crazy

Want to be famous? Start by giving yourself an extreme makeover of Lady Gaga proportions

Last week, the Council of Fashion Designers announced that it will give Lady Gaga the Fashion Icon Of the Year award at its annual ceremony, which is the fashion world's equivalent of the Oscars.

The move was a final, official endorsement, of sorts, on the moment pop culture fashion seems to be in — that moment being a radically wild, crazy and, frankly, more interesting one.

It's old news for celebs to be cute and sexy (Britney Spears) or cute and styley (Carrie Bradshaw.) We want it louder, shinier, spikier and weirder. Will the look make our jaw drop? Will it cause politically correct types to protest? No? Yawn, not interested. It's a new, foolproof formula that has replaced the add-honey-colored-hair-extensions-shiny-dress-and-stir equation that worked so well for Britney, Beyoncé and Rihanna in their early days. But (ho!) even Beyoncé and Rihanna have gone to the Gaga side (what are you waiting for Brit?)

We look at the transformation of some of your favorite divas.

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

GETTY IMAGES

Lady Gaga

- **Before:** Just one of Gaga's many unmemorable ensembles pre-Nicola Formichetti, the stylist who helped make her famous by dressing her in McQueen, that meat dress and other outfits that have gotten you talking.
- **After:** Wonderfully weird in that Gaga way we've all come to love.

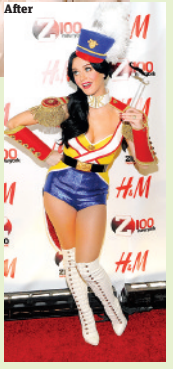
Katy Perry

- **Before:** Pretty and boring in pastel satin.
- **After:** The kind of showy get-up that only Russell Brand could love.

GETTY IMAGES

Before

After



Nicki Minaj

- **Before:** Haven't we seen this little black dress before?
- **After:** The Bride of Frankenstein meets Roberto Cavalli. What's not to love?

GETTY IMAGES

Before

After

Rihanna

- **Before:** The old weavalicious formula that became starndard in the R&B and pop world.
- **After:** Rih Rih's much more interesting, wild style.

GETTY IMAGES

Before

After

Ke$ha

- **Before:** The then relatively unknown singer in an imitation of the same glam, rock look we've seen before.
- **After:** Strange? Yup. More famous? Yup.

GETTY IMAGES

Before

After

Let's go crazy

GETTY IMAGES

- **Pint-sized crazy:** With Rihanna's team of stylists working for her, Willow Smith has all of the sartorial tools for pop stardom.
- **Runway crazy:** Nicola Formichetti gave models in his first show as designer for Thierry Mugler the Gaga treatment. It was just one of many over-the-top looks shown on the autumn/winter '11 catwalks.

GETTY

- **Real life crazy:** Blogger Susie Bubble has earned a huge following of readers who love her adventurous style.

PHIL OH

Trend of the week

When you think about it, sleeveless coats and jackets are the perfect transitional weather solution. Layer them over denim, as these fashionable ladies did, for a fresh look that will keep you cool as you ease into spring. Acne has a very cool option. Or take the budget-friendly route and get all Edward Scissorhands on your favorite trench coat.

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Fashion industry plans to launch environmentally friendly changes

The north knows fashion

Toronto-based LG Fashion Week struts into this weekend **Check out some of the latest and greatest**

JOE FRESH

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joe Fresh Style drew on virtually all of the primary colours in the wheel, largely eschewing darker tones for glowing hues in its fall-winter line unveiled at Toronto's LG Fashion Week. The affordable apparel brand delivered a classic sportswear collection, serving up a blend of contrasting shapes and textures in a series of streamlined looks. Forget the staid overcoat in basic black, navy or grey. Those seeking to go in a more boldly bright direction could sample from the fluorescent orange, azure blue or emerald green offerings. Neoprene dresses were also bathed in similarly striking hues. Metallics shimmered from the top down, from caramel parkas to copper-tiered fringe skirts to footwear. Knits ran the gamut from patterned vest to chunkier dresses. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

BUSTLE

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bustle melded a taste of the great outdoors and cottage chic with a modern style sensibility with sleek, tailored menswear separates to close out Day 2 of Toronto's LG Fashion Week. All of the hallmarks of the Toronto-based sportswear label fronted by husband-and-wife duo Shawn Hewson and Ruth Promislow were in full force in the runway presentation. The garments remained the central focus, with a succession of crisp blazers, overcoats, button-down collared shirts and slim-fit pants resplendent in checks and plaids and lushly rich red, burgundy, violet, hunter green and periwinkle blue. There were refined accents, like piping on shoulders and pops of colour on collars. Slim-fit pants, vests and several other items in the range featured the label's customized decal. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

PINK TARTAN

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kimberley Newport-Mimran dialled up the signature glam of her label, Pink Tartan, in a range of elegant military-inspired outerwear and eveningwear rolled out before a capacity audience at Toronto's LG Fashion Week. Models heeded the call of duty in style. Full-skirted collared dresses, slinky olive sateen jumpsuits, khaki green utility vests, and slim-fitting blouses fashioned with exposed zippers, gleaming buttons and brassy epaulettes were among the looks on offer. Newport-Mimran also wowed with an array of sharp outerwear offerings in classic colours, including slick black puffer coats, lush full-length ivory jackets and a hint of pink ribbon trim tucked under the collar of pale grey coat. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Roasted vegetables have never tasted this delicious

Roasting the ingredients of this Asparagus and Potato Soup will bring out their deeper, richer flavours

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

For this Asparagus and Potato Soup, all the vegetables are roasted at high heat, caramelizing their sugars.

They then are puréed until smooth and combined with yogurt, which gives the soup a creamy quality that belies its low-fat nutritional profile.

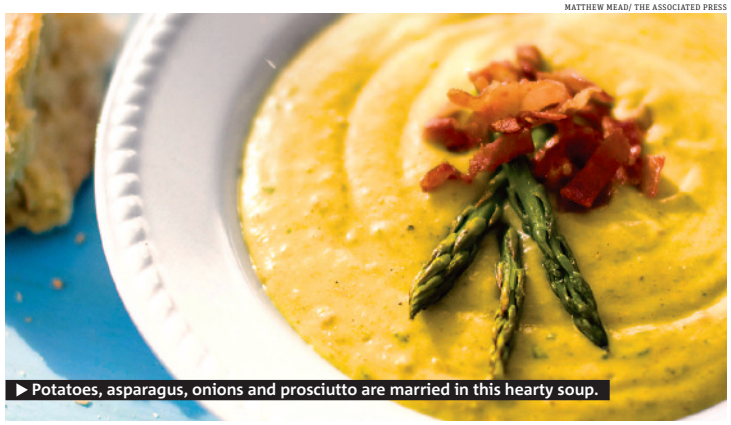
Lastly, prosciutto is crisped in a skillet to create a garnish that has all the appeal of crumbled bacon, without all the grease.

Preparation:

1. Place garlic on square piece of foil and sprinkle with 1 tsp (5 mL) water. Fold foil into a packet. Set aside.
2. In bowl, combine asparagus, potatoes, onion, oil, salt and pepper; toss to coat. Spread vegetables over 2 large parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Place packet of garlic in corner of one of the sheets. Roast in 425 F (220 C) oven, stirring occasionally for 45 minutes or until asparagus is soft and potatoes tender. Let cool for five minutes.
3. Meanwhile, in skillet set over medium heat, crisp prosciutto for about 5 minutes; set aside.
4. Transfer half of vegetables into blender and add 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) of broth; blend until smooth. Transfer to pot. Repeat using remaining vegetables and remaining broth. Warm soup over medium heat. Whisk in yogurt, tarragon, lemon juice.
5. Season with more salt and pepper to taste, if desired. Ladle soup into bowls and crumble prosciutto on top to serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA.

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Potatoes, asparagus, onions and prosciutto are married in this hearty soup.

Ingredients:

- 6 cloves garlic
- 1 1/4 lb (625 g) fresh asparagus, trimmed, cut into 1-inch (2.5 cm) pieces (about 3 cups/750 mL)
- 2 cups (500 mL) peeled and diced Yukon Gold potatoes
- 1 medium sweet onion, cut into 6 wedges
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground black pepper
- 2 oz (60 g) sliced prosciutto, chopped
- 3 cups (750 mL) chicken broth
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) non-fat plain Greek-style yogurt
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) minced fresh tarragon
- 1 tsp (5 mL) lemon juice

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Erskine Bridge Hotel — + taxes & fees $482
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The project overview

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DUNCAN MCALLISTER

In the neighbourhood

The community is situated next to a large neighbourhood park with arbour seating near a pond and playground. There's direct access to preserved woodlands of the adjacent ravine. Close to Spring Lakes Golf Club, the Stouffville Conservation Area, and short jaunt to the shops, restaurants and services of Main Street. A great location for families: close by are schools and recreational facilities.

Building amenities

Featuring bungalow-with-loft and raised bungalow designs, with covered back porch, the spacious kitchens with vintage-look tin ceiling and white cabinetry, topped with granite counters exude a casual charm. The homes include a gas fireplace, formal dining room and dark-stained hardwood floors, with built-in furniture-finish buffet and sumptuous main floor master bedrooms.

Location and transit

Nestled on the east side of Hwy. 48, north of Stouffville Rd., Cardinal Point borders on green ravine lands, and are conveniently located within walking distance of Stouffville's charming Main Street. Just a short drive to Hwys. 404 and the 407 ETR, as well as the Stouffville GO station, it's about an hour commute into Toronto's downtown.

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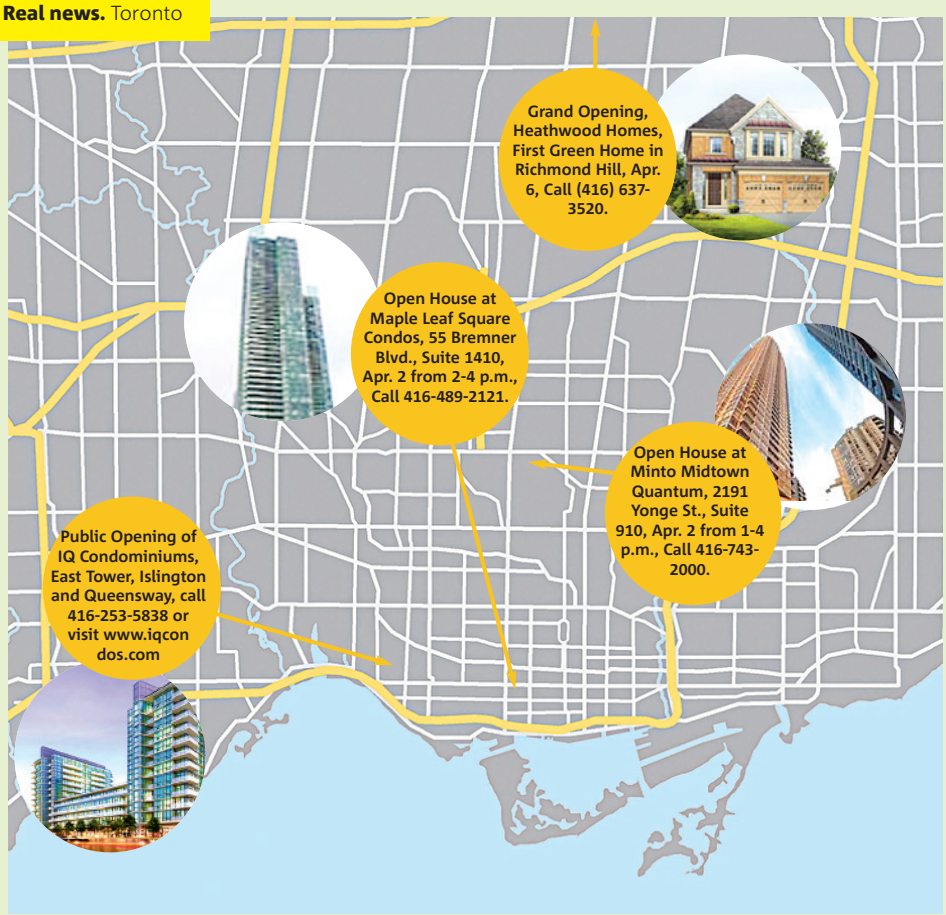
- **PRICING:** $499,900 to $569,900.

▶ Dark-stained hardwood floors are just one of the features of the Cardinal Point Bungalows.

Real news. Toronto


Grand Opening, Heathwood Homes, First Green Home in Richmond Hill, Apr. 6, Call (416) 637-3520.
Open House at Maple Leaf Square Condos, 55 Bremner Blvd., Suite 1410, Apr. 2 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-489-2121.
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HIGH-FIVES FOR AWARDS FINALISTS

Rooftop Surfing

STEPHEN DUPUIS
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

The Golden Globes, Academy Awards, Grammys and Junos are behind us now, but it's far from the end of awards season. In fact it's just beginning as far as the building and development industry awards are concerned.

On April 29, BILD will hand out 46 different awards for everything from sales and marketing to building and suite design, plus several project-based and special awards including Green Builder and Home Builder of the Year.

The annual BILD awards are divided between high- and low-rise categories and there are some very familiar builder and project names on the high-rise list, starting with Concert Properties, Liberty Development and Tridel vying for Green Builder of the Year. The same troika faces off in the Community of the Year category (for The Berczy, World on Yonge and West Village respectively).

The five finalists for high-rise project of the year are Canderel Stoneridge (DNA3), Freed Developments (Thompson Residences), Great Gulf Homes (One Bloor), Lifetime Developments/Ink Entertainment (Bisha Hotel and Residences), and Mod Developments & Graywood Developments (Five).

The most nominated high-rise builder of all is Canderel Stoneridge with 13 nods for DNA3 followed very closely by Edenshaw Homes/45 Charles Ltd. and Lifetime Developments/Ink Entertainment with 12 nominations each for Chaz on Charles and Bisha respectively.

The complete finalists list can be found at bildawards.com.

Giving new life to decor

Karl Lohnes offers tips on making over some old favourites and giving them a new purpose

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@
METRONEWS.CA

It's usually in the spring that I look around my house and consider replacing a worn piece of furniture or some of the outdated accessories that I've been hanging onto.

A yard sale is a great place to sell-off unwanted items and there are certainly enough curb-browsers who will gladly take my outdated decor items. But this spring I am going to challenge myself to an idea that is not only inexpensive, but eco-friendly, too.

I am going to make over a few of my least favourite items. I figure with a small investment and a bit of elbow grease I can give my old wingback chairs, dresser and worn carpet a whole new look. Here's how I will start.

ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED

If something looks like it's a tad outdated, it may just need a colour change.

The old wingback chairs that I've been dragging around each time I move are looking rather boring in the mocha cotton twill fabric and it's time for an update.

On its last leg of life, I am going to let the chairs be the centre of attention by slipcovering them in a fun, loud fabric.

They will be the greeters by the front door — a place to sit while waiting for a taxi to arrive, or, more likely, a place to throw my coat, gloves and tote bag.

Tip: Look for punchy, affordable fabrics at dress supply retailers like Fabricland. They sell much more than just lightweight dress fabrics and might even be able to recommend someone to slipcover your furniture for you for an affordable price.

The dark wood dresser that I have dragged around since childhood has just about seen it all over the many years.

Instead of selling my old companion off in the yard sale, I'll paint the outer shell with a low-luster oil paint (for durability) and wallpaper the drawer fronts to add some personality.

Because of its smaller size, I'm going to use my newly decorated friend in the hallway. It'll now hold the overflowing bath supplies from the linen cupboard.

Tip: Choose the wallpaper first, then match it to a coordinating paint colour. This will allow you to have a custom look that is perfectly matched.

I bought a worn Kilim rug for next to nothing many years ago, and its tired look is starting to get me down.

Time for a fresher-looking carpet in the den. I'm taking my old friend to the carpet cleaners and once he's been scrubbed down, I'm having him cut up and blocked into floor cushions to stack in the corner of my bedroom.

A great way to reinvent an old friend and not have to say goodbye.

Tip: Talk to your local rug cleaners about sewing the rugs into poufs as a heavy-gauge needled sewing machine will be needed.

If they cannot do it then call up a local upholstery school (check the community night school programs). Either take the classes a night and do it there, or hire someone from the school that has basic sewing experience.

Karl Lohnes live

See Metro's Karl Lohnes live at the Toronto International Home & Garden Show, Thursday only! Karl will be presenting the Decor Trend Colours for 2011 on the main stage at 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. Check out home-show.net for times, location and tickets.

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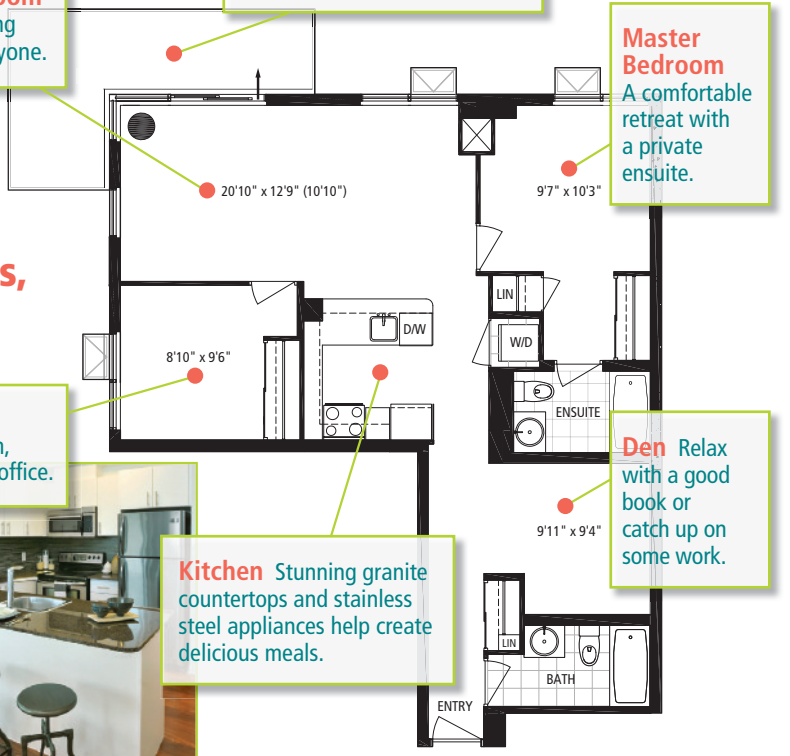
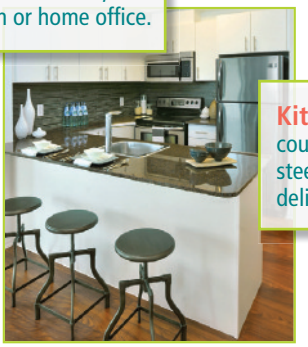


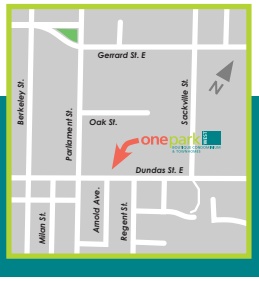
Incredible Downtown East location close to TTC, Shops, Parks and much more!

Second Bedroom The perfect kids room, guest room or home office.



Kitchen Stunning granite countertops and stainless steel appliances help create delicious meals.

Den Relax with a good book or catch up on some work.



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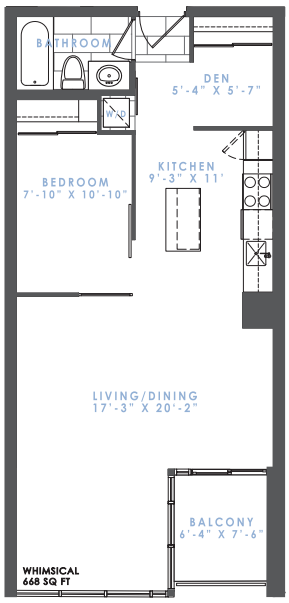

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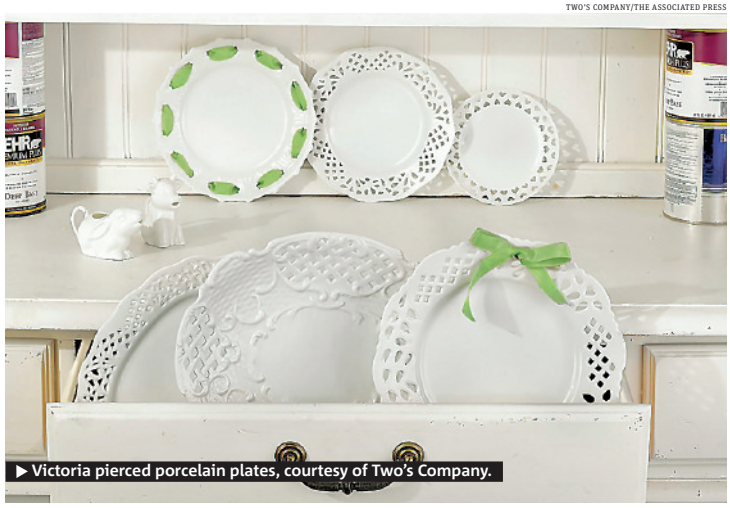


▶ Victoria pierced porcelain plates, courtesy of Two's Company.

White is welcome

Like freshly washed laundry on the line on a sunny day, this season's white decor is a welcome sight.

Just when we're ready to fling open the windows, shake out rugs and scrub the memory of winter away, stores are responding by stocking tabletop accessories, throw pillows, furniture and more in crisp whites and soothing creams.

A few white accents make an enormous difference, so you don't have to spend a lot on this update.

Change out dark lampshades and replace jewel-toned throws for nubby vanilla ones.

Store away the heavy window treatments and put up snowy voile curtains or sleek white blinds.

Give the room trim a coat of bright white. Pull off winter's heavier slipcovers and rugs, and substitute white canvas and cotton.

You'll see your rooms "open up" as the light values change. Plus everything just looks cleaner, and isn't that what spring is all about?

Inexpensive vessels, serve ware and baskets are a great way to add some white touches; use them as countertop fruit and snack containers, key and wallet holders, and magazine drops. Homegoods has a pretty laser-cut side table. White ceramics include a cutout, deco-style lamp and an elegant textured vase, and there are several painted wooden candlesticks that would look great with sleek white or candy box coloured tapers.

Gift retailer Two's Company offers the Victoria collection of lacy, pierced-edge porcelain plates threaded with sage ribbon.

La Vie en Blanc artichoke sculptures are elegant, as are ceramic tabletop nautilus shells and Reef coral, all rendered in wonderful milky white.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1

2

1 LAMP
White deco cut-out lamp courtesy of HomeGoods.

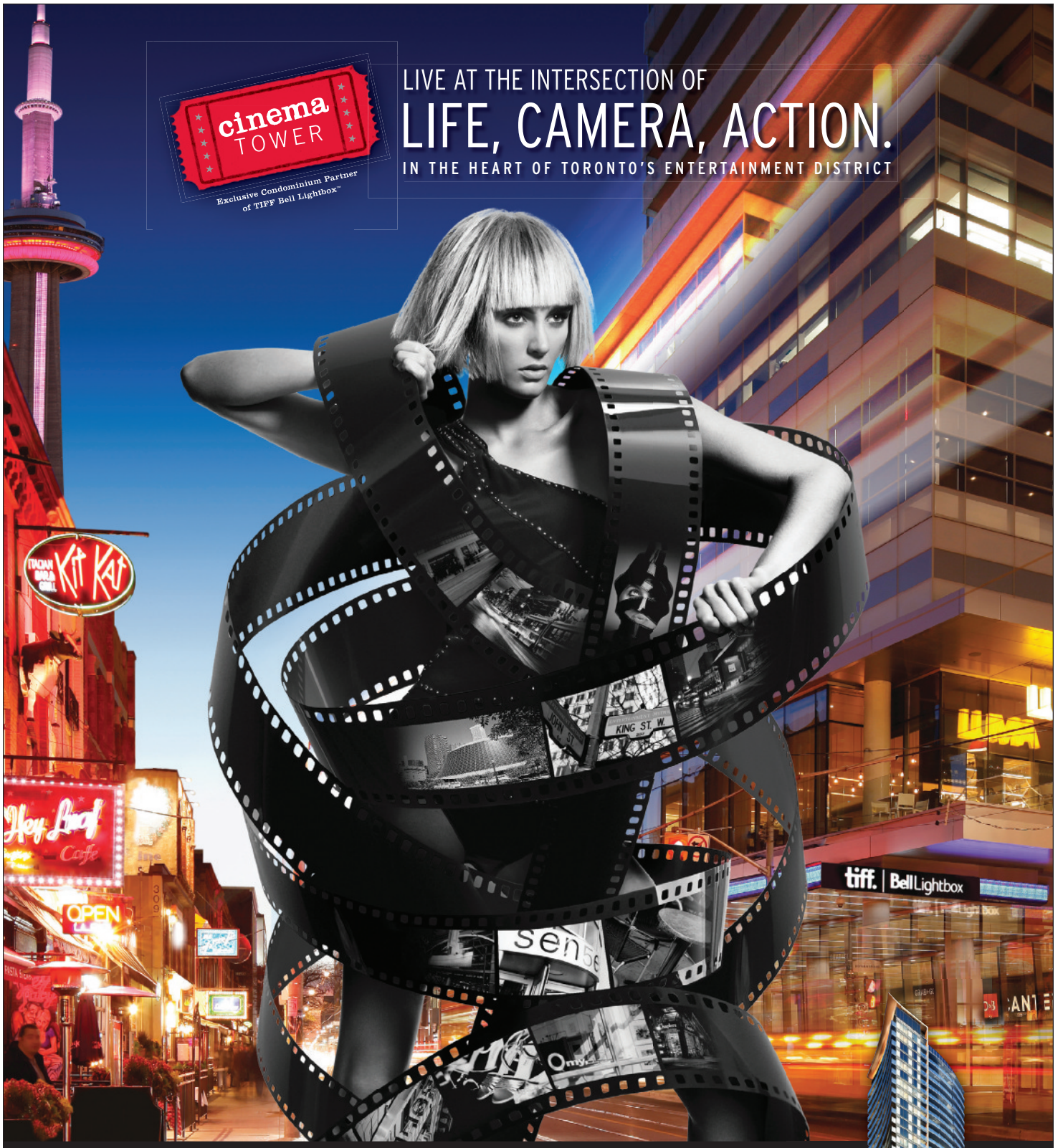
2 TABLE
White laser-cut side table courtesy of HomeGoods.

3 PILLOW
Lupe pillow, courtesy of Crate and Barrel.

4 SCULPTURES
La Vie en Blanc artichoke sculptures.

3

4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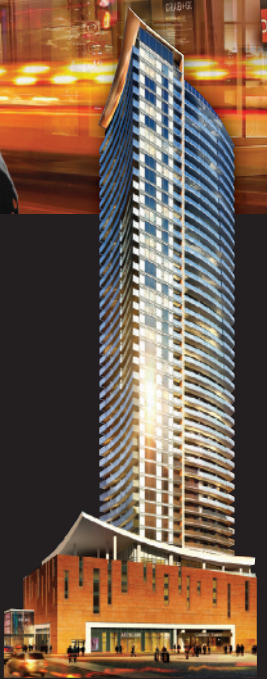

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Wood flooring essentials

Never underestimate the visual importance of your home's flooring

DIY IDEAS

JIM CARUK
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Are you looking at your kitchen or dining room floor with a critical eye? Your visitors are. Oftentimes, it's the quality of your home's flooring that is the first thing that catches the eye.

Until about a decade ago, do-it-yourself flooring options were limited. Now, manufacturers have come out with a vast range of wood and wood-composite flooring materials.

What's the difference between the two? Well, solid wood flooring has been around for years and it's still the top-end choice. You can select hardwood, softwood or even bamboo. And don't be fooled by the "hardwood" and "softwood" labels. Softwood just means the tree is an evergreen. Douglas fir, a softwood, is a lot harder than many hardwoods.

Bamboo flooring hit the market in a big way about a decade ago. It's actually a grass. But don't let that fool you. It's harder than oak! And bamboo is ecologically-friendly because it's so fast-growing.

While solid wood flooring provides a supremely high-quality look in almost any room, it is not always the best choice for areas susceptible to moisture, such as basements. Be careful with it in bathrooms, too.

A more moisture-proof option for those areas is wood-composite, also known as "laminate" flooring. Laminate is generally less expensive than solid wood, yet it can look fantastic. This "engineered" flooring contains a real wood surface with underlying layers of plywood or fibreboard. These give the product its strength and resilience.

ISTOCK PHOTO

▶ Wood or wood-composite flooring? That is the question.

Cork flooring belongs to the laminate flooring category. It's got a surface made from the cork oak tree. About half of the product is air bubbles, giving it a comforting, cushioned feel. Still, it has surprising durability, even in moist environments. It's a fashion-forward choice.

To install your own flooring like a pro, sign up for our Wood Flooring Essentials course at biyworkshops.com. We'll give you hands-on instruction in underlayment, layout and installation of all kinds of build-it-yourself wooden floors.

JIM CARUK, HGTV HOST, HAS BEEN A RENOVATION CONTRACTOR FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. HE IS THE FOUNDER OF BUILD IT YOURSELF LEARNING CENTERS WHICH TEACHES HOMEOWNERS HOW TO COMPLETE THEIR OWN REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS (BIYWORKSHOPS.COM).

SALES PROCESS

Legal Matters

JEFFREY COWAN
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

QUESTION: I am in the process of selling my home and am working with a real estate agent. I have owned the home for over 20 years and I am not familiar with the sales process. When should I involve a real estate lawyer and how do I go about engaging them?

If you are working with a real estate agent, they are your best resource in the initial stages of the sale of your home.

There are a host of extremely good and professional realtors working in the market, and if your chosen representative has a reasonable amount of experience, you should be in good hands. In particular, realtors are well equipped with the information and wording of standard clauses that need to be included in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

In most cases you do not need to engage a lawyer until you have a solid deal.

Some vendors and their agents insert a clause that the Agreement is subject to the review of the document by the duly appointed counsel for the vendor.

This is an opportunity that I gladly embrace as a lawyer as it makes sure that if there are some questionable issues with the transaction, they can be addressed up front by the lawyer.

More often than not, it is the lawyer for the purchaser who ends up reviewing the Agreement for the purchaser.

However, it is not unheard of to have the vendor's lawyer involved up front.

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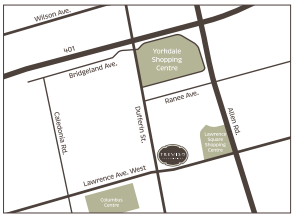

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Common garden mistakes

Brown thumb? No problem, you can always replant if there's a mistake

Gardening is a forgiving hobby. You can always right any wrongs next growing season.

The best way to prevent problems, though, is with good planning.

"Designing from the top of your head may work, but things most likely will work better if you write it down and do a simple drawing," said Jack McKinnon, a garden coach from San Francisco. "Think before you plant."

Most gardening failures result from simple things, he said, "like people who don't fertilize, or if they do, put on too much. The same goes for people who don't understand watering, or add too much. Many tend to do their pruning with power tools and then overdo it."

Here are 10 common gardening mistakes and ways to avoid them:

1. Neglecting soil preparation

Test the plant beds before you begin, and again every few years to see if soil conditioners are needed.

DEAN FOSDICK /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Black spot fungus is shown on a rose bush.

2. Overplanting

Design with the size of mature plants in mind. Try succession planting, in which early, cool-weather crops are harvested before later, less hardy plants reach maturity.

3. Flawed feeding.

"Mulch plants and they'll be so much happier," said Tia Pinney, adult program co-ordinator at the Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, in Lincoln, Mass. "Supplement your soil, don't just fertilize it."

4. Improper watering.

Too much water can be just as damaging as too little. Do a finger-in-the-ground test to ensure that the soil around the roots is moist.

5. Wrong location

Growing conditions change as trees and shrubs mature, creating different shadow patterns. Most plants need six to eight hours of sun per day to develop.

6. Improper pest control.

Don't kill the good bugs, like pollinators, in an effort to eliminate the bad.

7. Faulty maintenance.

Don't set your cultivator (or hoe) too deep, damaging plant roots. Pull some weeds by hand.

8. Over-pruning

As a rule, don't remove more than 30 per cent of the foliage from shrubs in one cutting. And don't "top" trees to control their height.

"That reduces their life span rather than improves their health," Ryan said.

9. Botched planting

Choose the right plant depth.

"I know of one property where they put a tree with its root ball on the surface of the ground, and then mulched around it up to the level of the trunk," Ryan said. "People don't know how to plant."

10. Failing to start over

"Oftentimes, people let diseased things grow that should be pulled out, and it affects the health of the entire crop," McKinnon said.

Start with a small plot so you can correct.

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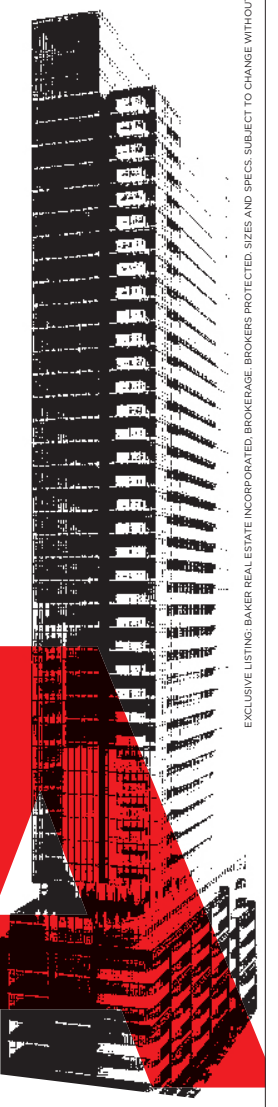

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www.MLSETEAMUPFOUNDATION.org

CELEBRATING THE 25TH FACILITY REFURBISHMENT

The Foundation recently announced a $250,000 donation to replace the Angela James Arena's dasher boards, provide new skate matting, create a women's dressing room and upgrade the current dressing rooms. Angela James Arena is the Foundation's 25th refurbishment, and Hockey Hall of Famer Angela James and Leafs Alumni Wendel Clark, Mike Gartner and Dick Duff were on hand to celebrate the milestone. The Flemingdon Park community enjoyed a free skate during the event, access to the Leafs FanZone, Hockey Hall of Fame exhibits and snacks, and an autograph session with the Alumni.

ONE NIGHT, 4 TEAMS, ONE CAUSE = A QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS RAISED

At the inaugural One 4 One event, over 700 fans had the opportunity to meet all the players from the Leafs, Raptors, TFC and Marlies while raising over $250,000 for the MLSE Team Up Foundation. This was a historical event—the first time that NHL, NBA, MLS and AHL teams came together for one night under one roof.

$50,000 DONATED TO REFURBISH SORAUREN PARK PITCH

The Foundation announced its commitment to invest $50,000 toward the refurbishment of Sorauren Park's soccer pitch. The field will be leveled and re-sodded, new player benches installed and storage will be built for the community soccer league.

$120,000 INVESTED FOR NEW VARIETY VILLAGE BASKETBALL COURT

Toronto Raptors players and members of the National Wheelchair Basketball Team were on hand to unveil the Foundation's refurbishment of Variety Village's basketball court. The $120,000 investment toward a new FIBA regulated hardwood centre court will provide the National and Provincial wheelchair basketball teams a place to train, and inspire the Village's grassroots program.

$25,000 DONATED TO REFURBISH BURNHAMTHORPE OUTDOOR RINK

The Foundation joined the Toronto Marlies to announce the refurbishment of the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre outdoor rink. The investment will provide several improvements, including new skate flooring, Plexiglas board completion, installation of protective netting, repairs and improvements to arena board gates and the replacement and addition of plastic benching to the outdoor change area. To celebrate the $25,000 donation, the Marlies held a community practice in front of 400 local kids.

New season, new questions

From Bautista's bat to the bullpen, much remains uncertain

While the Toronto Blue Jays appear to have a promising future, it's hard to predict when this team will be ready to contend in the American League East.

The Jays won 85 games last season, a 10-game improvement on 2009. They led the major leagues with 257 home runs and relied on a young rotation that was able to overcome the departure of longtime ace Roy Halladay.

It was still only good enough for fourth place in the division behind the Tampa Bay Rays, New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. The Baltimore Orioles were last, but are hoping to build on their late-season resurgence after Buck Showalter was hired as manager.

This year, the Blue Jays have their own new manager in John Farrell, who spent the four previous seasons as Boston's pitching coach. He takes over from Cito Gaston, who retired at the end of last season.

Toronto has been mired in a long post-season drought since winning a second straight World Series title in 1993. There are several big questions marks with the 2011 season about to begin.

Among them: Will the young rotation continue to develop? Is Jose Bautista more than a one-year wonder? Can Aaron Hill and Adam Lind become useful hitters again? Is Lind a first baseman? Is J.P. Arencibia a full-time catcher? Will the team defence be good enough? Will Travis Snider have a breakthrough season? Who replaces Kevin Gregg's 37 saves? Who replaces Scott Downs in the bullpen?

"When you look at the guys who are the core young players on their way up, this organization is in a very good position."
JAYS MANAGER JOHN FARRELL

The Blue Jays' home run total is a good bet to come down this season. Bautista led the major leagues with 54 homers last year but Vernon Wells (31 homers), Lyle Overbay (20) and John Buck (20) are gone.

While players such as speedy centre-fielder Rajai Davis were acquired in the off-season to create a more balanced offence, there should still be some pop in the lineup.

Bautista is back with a big new contract and even though they struggled last year, Lind and Hill still hit 23 and 26 homers, respectively. A slimmed-down Edwin Encarnacion also returns — he hit 21 homers in limited playing time in 2010. Snider, who will be the regular left-fielder, can also go deep if he avoids injury. And while Davis stole 50 bases last year with Oakland, he showed this spring he can hit for extra bases under the guidance of hitting coach Dwayne Murphy.

The win total could also drop in 2011, something that might not be considered a setback for a rebuilding team that continues to acquire and break in young players. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Clockwise from top, Jo-Jo Reyes, Kyle Drabek, Brett Cecil, Jose Bautista and Rajai Davis.

4 sports

Leafs preview

Leafs at Bruins
7 p.m.
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Toronto (35-32-10) will try to keep its slim playoff hopes alive against its Northeast Division rival. The Leafs are coming off an impressive 4-3 win over the Buffalo Sabres Tuesday night. Rookie Nazem Kadri had two assists in one of his best games with Toronto.

Boston (43-23-10) can move closer to locking up the Northeast Division with a victory. The Bruins have relied on the stellar play of netminder Tim Thomas. He earned shutouts in two of his last three games and has a sparkling goals-against average of 1.96.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AL BEHRMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Milwaukee Brewers jog in the snow yesterday at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati.

Boys of summer better bundle up opening day

Six games on tap today Harsh weather expected in Washington, New York, Kansas City and Cincinnati

Grab the parka, ski cap, mittens and galoshes. It's time for baseball.

From Dodger Stadium to Yankee Stadium, there was a flurry of activity as teams got ready for opening day. At Great American Ball Park, meanwhile, there were actual flurries.

Ryan Braun, Prince Fielder and the Milwaukee Brewers worked out as snowflakes fell yesterday, a day before they were to play Cincinnati. The conditions were better suited for snowballs than baseballs when the Reds later took the field, too.

"I love it. I love the weather," Reds second baseman Brandon Phillips deadpanned. "The weather is beautiful."

"Even after all these years, there are still butterflies. Heck yeah."
CINCINNATI REDS MANAGER DUSTY BAKER

The forecast for the six openers today wasn't much better. Rain with temperatures in the 10 C mark in Washington, New York and Kansas City, downright chilly in Cincinnati.

"It's not easy playing in the cold but the good thing is both teams have to do it," Yankees star Mark Teixeira said, set to face Detroit in the Bronx's first March game.

Said Tigers catcher Alex Avila: "It's going to be perfect weather, 40s and rain. A good day to pitch."

At Nationals Park, Washington players came out to practise in red-hooded sweatshirts. Their workout ended in the rain when the grounds crew pulled out the tarp. There's no telling if it will be any better for today's game against Atlanta.

Leave it to Los Angeles to provide the perfect setting. Two-time Cy Young winner Tim Lincecum, rookie of the year Buster Posey and the World Series champion San Francisco Giants open at Dodger Stadium, where it's supposed to be sunny and near 26 C.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Crosby skating, but return is uncertain

Team says injured captain may not be ready to play until next season

Sidney Crosby is hitting the road with his Pittsburgh teammates again, but is not ready for prime time yet.

Despite recent speculation that his return could be days away, perhaps in time for the first round of the playoffs, Crosby climbing over the boards again during game action might not occur until next season.

Crosby will rejoin his teammates for game-day skates starting today, but it appears increasingly less likely the former NHL MVP will heal from a concussion in time to play again this season, no matter how far the Penguins advance in the post-season.

"The last thing we'll do with Sidney Crosby or any player is push him if he's not ready," general manager Ray Shero said yesterday.

Crosby, sidelined since early January after sustaining two hard hits in as many games, isn't cleared yet to practise or for anything resembling contact — only to skate with his teammates on game days. Some days he will just work out off the ice, as he has been doing since he resumed skating nearly three weeks ago.

Shero speculated that with the playoffs only two weeks away, there might not be enough time for Crosby to return for the post-season. He ruled out any possibility that Crosby could play in any of the Penguins' remaining five regular-season games.

"Our captain is coming back any time soon? That is not our expectation," Shero said. "Having said that, I don't want to take hope away from the player, because he's feeling good about himself. But when I talk to Dan Bylsma, our coach, about a date, a certain date about when Sid might be coming back, the certain date might be in training camp."

Bylsma said several more steps await Crosby in his lengthy rehabilitation, including getting cleared to practise and for taking body contact.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRADE WITH BLUE BOMBERS

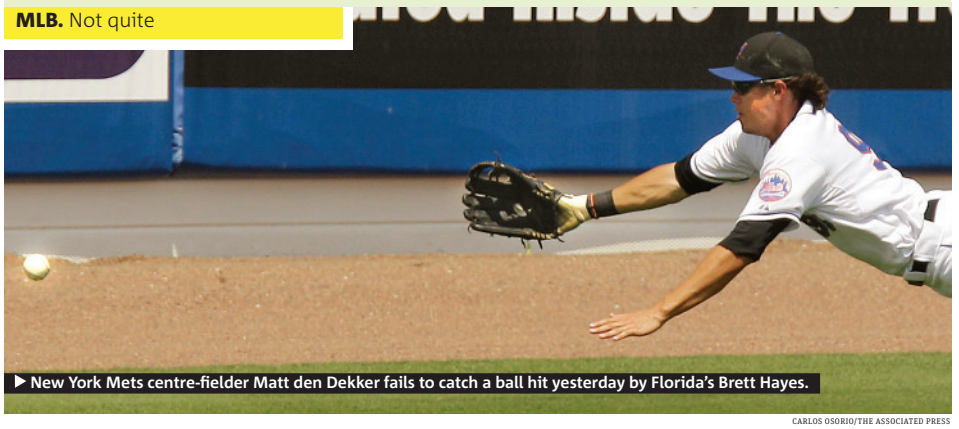
Argos add a passer

The Toronto Argonauts will once again have an open competition at quarterback when training camp opens this summer.

Toronto acquired veteran quarterback Steven Jyles from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers yesterday for the fourth pick in this year's Canadian college draft and a conditional 2012 fourth-round selection. That pick could become a second-round selection depending on how many games Jyles plays for the Argos.

And Jim Barker, Toronto's head coach and GM, said Jyles will be given every opportunity to compete with incumbent Cleo Lemon for the starting job. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB. Not quite



▶ New York Mets centre-fielder Matt den Dekker fails to catch a ball hit yesterday by Florida's Brett Hayes.

CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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High-stakes win for India in semi

Have now won all five Cricket World Cup head-to-heads against Pakistan dating back to 1992

A lucky 85 from Sachin Tendulkar was followed by a disciplined bowling effort as India beat Pakistan by 29 runs yesterday to progress to the World Cup final against Sri Lanka.

Pakistan was dismissed for 231 in the last over chasing 261, sparking wild celebrations among those at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium and across India.

Pakistan had pegged India back to 260-9 after Virender Sehwag's flying start, with left-arm pace bowler Wahab Riaz taking a career-best 5-46.

The game was touted as a duel between India's batters and Pakistan's bowlers, but Pakistan's shoddy fielding was the difference between the two sides.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAHAM CROUCH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Virat Kohli and Harbharjan Singh of India celebrate yesterday after defeating Pakistan in the second semifinal at the Cricket World Cup in Mohali, India.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-Philadelphia	76	46	20	4	6	243	202	102	21-11-2-4	25-9-2-2	5-1-1-3	W1
dx-Washington	77	44	22	5	6	207	185	99	22-8-2-6	22-14-3-0	7-2-0-1	L1
dx-Boston	76	43	23	5	5	229	178	96	19-13-3-2	24-10-2-3	5-3-2-0	W2
x-Pittsburgh	77	45	24	5	3	220	188	98	24-14-2-0	21-10-3-3	7-3-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	76	41	24	5	6	228	230	93	23-11-1-4	18-13-4-2	4-3-2-1	W2
Montreal	78	41	30	4	3	205	203	89	23-11-3-3	18-19-1-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Buffalo	77	39	29	8	1	226	214	87	19-16-3-1	20-13-5-0	6-3-1-0	W1
NY Rangers	77	41	31	2	3	218	182	87	18-16-1-3	23-15-1-0	7-2-0-1	L1
Carolina	77	37	30	5	5	220	228	84	21-13-2-2	16-17-3-3	6-4-0-0	W2
Toronto	77	35	32	5	5	205	235	80	18-14-3-4	17-18-2-1	6-4-0-0	W1
Atlanta	76	32	32	5	7	211	249	76	17-15-2-5	15-17-3-2	5-4-1-0	L1
New Jersey	76	35	36	3	2	158	191	75	19-15-2-1	16-21-0-2	5-4-0-1	W1
NY Islanders	77	29	36	7	5	212	244	70	16-17-1-4	13-19-6-1	4-4-2-0	L3
Florida	77	29	36	5	7	187	212	70	15-15-4-4	14-21-2-2	2-5-0-3	L6
Ottawa	77	29	38	5	5	177	238	68	14-19-2-3	15-19-3-2	5-4-0-1	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
z-Vancouver	77	51	17	4	5	250	176	111	25-8-1-4	26-9-3-1	9-1-0-0	W4
d-Detroit	77	44	23	6	4	247	226	98	20-13-4-2	24-10-2-2	5-3-2-0	L2
d-San Jose	76	44	23	4	5	224	199	97	21-11-2-3	23-12-2-2	6-1-0-3	W1
Phoenix	78	42	25	7	4	221	213	95	20-13-4-2	22-12-3-2	8-2-0-0	W1
Los Angeles	76	44	26	4	2	209	181	94	23-12-3-0	21-14-1-2	8-1-1-0	W4
Anaheim	77	44	28	3	2	223	223	93	24-12-1-1	20-16-2-1	8-2-0-0	W3
Nashville	77	41	26	6	4	203	182	92	22-9-4-3	19-17-2-1	8-2-0-0	L1
Chicago	76	41	27	3	5	242	209	90	23-15-0-0	18-12-4-4	4-4-1-1	L1
Dallas	75	38	26	4	7	209	212	87	20-11-3-5	18-15-1-2	3-3-2-2	L4
Calgary	78	38	29	4	7	237	230	87	22-13-1-3	16-16-3-4	3-5-1-1	L1
Minnesota	76	36	32	3	5	191	215	80	17-16-2-3	19-16-1-2	2-7-1-0	W1
St. Louis	77	35	32	4	6	224	225	80	21-12-1-4	14-20-3-2	5-5-0-0	W1
Columbus	76	34	31	4	7	202	232	79	17-17-1-3	17-14-3-4	3-5-1-1	W1
Colorado	75	28	39	7	1	211	267	64	15-18-4-0	13-21-3-1	2-8-0-0	L3
Edmonton	76	23	42	2	9	180	251	57	12-21-1-5	11-21-2-3	0-7-1-2	L10

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division title; d — division leaders; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL or SOL columns.

Last night's results
Anaheim 4 Calgary 2
Carolina 6 Montreal 2
St. Louis 10 Detroit 3
New Jersey 3 N.Y. Islanders 2
Buffalo 1 N.Y. Rangers 0
Tuesday's results
Toronto 4 Buffalo 3
Vancouver 3 Nashville 1
Los Angeles 2 Edmonton 0
Tampa Bay 5 Ottawa 2
Montreal 3 Atlanta 1
Carolina 3 Washington 2 (SO)
Columbus 3 Florida 2 (SO)
Phoenix 2 Dallas 1 (SO)
Minnesota 3 St. Louis 2 (SO)
Philadelphia 5 Pittsburgh 2
Boston 3 Chicago 0
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

DUCKS 4, FLAMES 2

First Period
1. Calgary, Iginla 37 (Tanguay, Giordano) 2:58
2. Anaheim, Ryan 33 (McMillan, Winchester) 8:05 (pp)
3. Anaheim, Fowler 10 (Visnovsky, Getzlaf) 15:40 (pp)
Penalties — Kotalik Cal (hooking) 5:02, Regehr Cal (slashing) 6:15, Beleskey Ana (cross-checking) 11:59, Backlund Cal (slashing) 14:51, Perry Ana (roughing) 15:40, Stajan Cal (tripping) 18:13.
Second Period
4. Anaheim, Visnovsky 16 (Perry) 18:51
Penalties — Iginla Cal (goaltender interference) 0:44, Beauchemin Ana (slashing) 11:00, Sbisa Ana (tripping) 12:43, Winchester Ana (cross-checking) 20:00.
Third Period
5. Calgary, Giordano 8 (Iginla, Tanguay) 0:32
6. Anaheim, Perry 45 (Selanne) 19:13 (en)
Penalties — Lydman Ana (hooking) 0:19, Lydman Ana (hooking) 4:07, Kostopoulos Cal (tripping) 6:45.
Shots

Anaheim	10	3	9	—22
Calgary	10	10	5	—25

Goal — Anaheim: Emery (W,6-0-0); Calgary: Kiprusoff (L,34-24-6).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Anaheim: 2-6; Calgary: 1-7.
Referees — Gord Dwyer, Marc Joanette.
Linesmen — Lonnie Cameron, Bryan Pancich.
Attendance — 19,289 (19,289).

HURRICANES 6, CANADIENS 2

First Period
1. Carolina, Skinner 28, 11:01
2. Carolina, Skinner 29 (Ruutu) 15:06
Penalties — None.
Second Period
3. Montreal, Cammalleri 17 (Wisniewski, Plekanec) 5:23 (pp)
4. Carolina, McBain 6 (Cole, Stillman) 6:10
5. Carolina, Pitkanen 4 (Ruutu, Skinner) 9:03
Penalties — Bra.Sutter Car (tripping) 3:52, Desharnais Mtl (hooking) 15:39.
Third Period
6. Montreal, Subban 12 (Wisniewski, Plekanec) 9:01 (pp)
7. Carolina, McBain 7 (Bowman) 15:24
8. Carolina, Stillman 11 (Corvo, E.Staal) 17:47 (pp)
Penalties — E.Staal Car (hooking) 4:44, E.Staal Car (slashing) 8:56, Subban Mtl (slashing) 10:20, Gill Mtl (tripping), Pouliot Mtl, Subban Mtl, Gleason Car (misconduct) 16:46, Hamrlik Mtl (hooking) 17:47.
Shots

Montreal	17	15	8	—40
Carolina	15	11	9	—35

Goal (shots-saves) — Montreal: Price (L,35-28-6)(26-22), Auld (start third)(9-7); Carolina: Ward (W,34-25-9).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Montreal: 2-3; Carolina: 1-4.
Referees — Tim Peel, Greg Kimmerly.
Linesmen — Don Henderson, Steve Miller.
Att. — 18,701 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

BLUES 10, RED WINGS 3

First Period
1. Detroit, Modano 4 (Holmstrom) 5:51
2. St. Louis, Stewart 27 (Berglund, Sobotka) 14:06
3. St. Louis, Janssen 1 (Reaves, McRae) 16:04
4. Detroit, Bertuzzi 16 (Franzen, V.Filppula) 17:55
5. St. Louis, Porter 1, 18:24
Penalties — Franzen Det (tripping) 0:18, Hudler Det (interference) 7:01.
Second Period
6. St. Louis, D'Agostini 20 (Nikitin, Sobotka) 1:54 (pp)
7. St. Louis, Crombeen 7 (McDonald, Polak) 5:23
8. St. Louis, Backes 28 (Shattenkirk, D'Agostini) 10:04 (pp)
9. Detroit, Zetterberg 24 (Lidstrom, Franzen) 12:37 (pp)
10. St. Louis, Polak 3 (Porter, Crombeen) 14:47
11. St. Louis, Sobotka 7 (Stewart, Nikitin) 16:10
Penalties — Franzen Det (roughing) 0:14, Cracknell StL (hooking) 6:07, Zetterberg Det (holding) 8:24, Cole StL (holding stick) 10:34, St. Louis bench (too many men; served by Stewart) 11:40.
Third Period
12. St. Louis, Berglund 20 (Stewart, Shattenkirk) 6:21
13. St. Louis, Porter 2 (Janssen, Cracknell) 17:50
Penalties — Shattenkirk StL, Franzen Det (unsportsmanlike conduct) 10:53.
Shots

St. Louis	19	14	14	—47
Detroit	11	15	18	—44

Goal (shots-saves) — St. Louis: Halak (W,24-20-7); Detroit: MacDonald (L,5-5-3)(39-32), McCollum (5:23 second)(8-5),. **Power plays (goals-chances)** — St. Louis: 2-4; Detroit: 1-3.
Referees — Ian Walsh, Eric Furlatt. **Linesmen** — Andy McElman, Thor Nelson.
Att. — 20,066 (20,066) at Detroit.

SABRES 1, RANGERS 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Callahan NYR (roughing), Stafford Buf (elbowing) 19:52.
Second Period
1. Buffalo, Connolly 12 (Vanek, Gragnani) 5:28 (pp)
Penalties — Staal NYR (interference) 4:50, Montador Buf (slashing) 16:31.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shots

N.Y. Rangers	8	6	9	—23
Buffalo	15	11	9	—35

Goal — N.Y. Rangers: Lundqvist (L,33-25-5); Buffalo: Enroth (W,6-2-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — N.Y. Rangers: 0-1; Buffalo: 1-1.
Referees — Dennis LaRue, Chris Rooney.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Derek Nansen.
Att. — 18,690 (18,690) at Buffalo.

DEVILS 3, ISLANDERS 2

First Period
1. New Jersey, Kovalchuk 28 (Palmieri, Zajac) 4:17
Penalties — Konopka NYI, Clarkson NJ (fighting) 1:57, M.Martin NYI, Leach NJ (fighting) 5:33, M.Martin NYI, Clarkson NJ (roughing) 13:01.
Second Period
2. New Jersey, Josefson 3 (Palmieri, Kovalchuk) 3:23
Penalties — Tallinder NJ (tripping) 0:08, Martinek NYI (hooking) 11:10, Reese NYI (tripping) 16:18.
Third Period
3. N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 12, 9:38 (sh)
4. N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 13 (M.Martin, Okposo) 13:44
5. New Jersey, Greene 4 (Elias, Zubrus) 15:04
Penalties — Tavares NYI (hooking) 3:38, Rolston NJ (tripping) 4:54, Katic NYI (double high-sticking) 7:57.
Shots

N.Y. Islanders	5	10	14	—29
New Jersey	7	10	3	—20

Goal — N.Y. Islanders: DiPietro (L,8-12-4); New Jersey: Brodeur (W,22-24-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — N.Y. Islanders: 0-2; New Jersey: 0-5.
Referees — Jean Hebert, Bill McCreary.
Linesmen — Derek Amell, Brian Murphy.
Att. — 16,252 (17,625) at Newark, N.J.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Tampa Bay 5 Toronto 3
San Francisco 2, Oakland 1
Minnesota 2, Atlanta 0
Pittsburgh 4, Philadelphia 1
N.Y. Mets 6, Florida 3
Boston 10 Houston 0
Seattle at L.A. Dodgers

REGULAR SEASON

Today's games
All times Eastern

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit (Verlander 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 0-0), 1:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Weaver 0-0) at Kansas City (Hochevar 0-0), 4:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta (Lowe 0-0) at Washington (Hernandez 0-0), 1:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Gallardo 0-0) at Cincinnati (Volquez 0-0), 2:10 p.m.
San Diego (Stauffer 0-0) at St. Louis (Carpenter 0-0), 4:15 p.m.
San Francisco (Lincecum 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-0), 8 p.m.

SKIING

CANADIAN ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIP

At Nakiska, Alta.
Women's Giant Slalom
1. Marie-Michele Gagnon, Lac-Etchemin, Que. (52.16-51.36), one minute, 43.52 seconds; 2. Britt Janyk, Whistler, B.C. (52.45-51.82), 1:44.27; 3. Victoria Stevens, Mont-Tremblant, Que. (52.57-52.13), 1:44.70; 4. Marie-Pier Prefontaine, Saint-Sauveur, Que. (52.34-52.63), 1:44.97; 5. Madison McLeish, Canmore, Alta., (52.66-52.35), 1:45.01; 6. Elli Terwiel, Sun Peaks, B.C. (53.73-51.71), 1:45.44; 7. Eve Routhier, Sherbrooke, Que. (53.00-52.62), 1:45.62; 8. Erin Mielzynski, Guelph, Ont. (54.41-52.12), 1:46.53; 9. Kate Ryley (53.60-52.98), 1:46.58; 10. Julia Roth, Waterloo, Ont. (54.52-53.51), 1:48.03.

GOLF

WORLD RANKING

Through March 27

1. Martin Kaymer	Ger	7.87
2. Lee Westwood	Eng	7.54
3. Luke Donald	Eng	6.55
4. Graeme McDowell	NIr	6.19
5. Tiger Woods	USA	5.82
6. Phil Mickelson	USA	5.70
7. Paul Casey	Eng	5.63
8. Rory McIlroy	NIr	5.44
9. Matt Kuchar	USA	5.33
10. Steve Stricker	USA	5.24
11. Jim Furyk	USA	5.04
12. Dustin Johnson	USA	5.00
13. Ernie Els	SAf	4.73
14. Nick Watney	USA	4.65
15. Francesco Molinari	Ita	4.48
16. Ian Poulter	Eng	4.47
17. Bubba Watson	USA	4.35
18. Hunter Mahan	USA	4.18
19. Retief Goosen	SAf	4.17
20. Robert Karlsson	Swe	4.08
21. Martin Laird	Sco	3.86
22. Louis Oosthuizen	SAf	3.70
23. Tim Clark	SAf	3.67
24. Miguel Angel Jimenez	Esp	3.66
25. Alvaro Quiros	Esp	3.63
26. Justin Rose	Eng	3.60
27. Edoardo Molinari	Ita	3.52
28. Adam Scott	Aus	3.45
29. Charl Schwartzel	SAf	3.44
30. Robert Allenby	Aus	3.39
31. Rickie Fowler	USA	3.19
32. Geoff Ogilvy	Aus	3.15
33. Y.E. Yang	Kor	3.11
34. Zach Johnson	USA	3.07
35. Kim Kyung-Tae	Kor	2.97
36. Padraig Harrington	Irl	2.95

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
Philadelphia	2	0	0	6	2	0
Chicago	1	0	1	4	4	3
New England	1	0	1	4	3	2
New York	1	0	1	4	1	0
D.C.	1	1	0	3	4	3
Sporting Kansas City	1	1	0	3	5	5
Toronto FC	1	1	0	3	4	4
Houston	0	1	1	1	1	2
Columbus	0	1	1	1	1	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	2	0	0	6	5	1
Colorado	2	0	0	6	4	1
Los Angeles	1	1	1	4	3	5
Vancouver	1	1	0	3	4	3
San Jose	1	1	0	3	2	1
Seattle	0	2	1	1	1	3
FC Dallas	0	1	1	1	1	3
Chivas USA	0	2	0	0	2	4
Portland	0	2	0	0	1	5

NOTE: Three points for victory, one pt. for tie.
Tomorrow's game
All times Eastern
FC Dallas at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Chivas USA at Toronto FC, 1 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Houston at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at New England, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle FC at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
D.C. United at Colorado, 7 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP-WTA SONY ERICSSON OPEN

At Key Biscayne, Fla.
Men's Singles — Quarter-finals
Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Kevin Anderson, South Africa, 6-4, 6-2.
Mardy Fish (14), U.S., def. David Ferrer (6), Spain, 7-5, 6-2.
Men's Doubles — Quarter-finals
Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and **Daniel Nestor (2), Toronto,** def. Robert Lindstedt, Sweden, and Horia Tecau (8), Romania, 7-5, 6-0.
Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes (3), India, def. Michael Llodra, France, and Nenad Zimonjic (6), Serbia, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 10-7 tiebreak.
Women's Singles — Quarter-finals
Victoria Azarenka (8), Belarus, def. Kim Clijsters (2), Belgium, 6-3, 6-3.
Vera Zvonareva (3), Russia, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (9), Poland, 7-5, 6-3.
Women's Doubles — Quarter-finals
Liezel Huber, U.S., and Nadia Petrova (3), Russia, def. Sloane Stephens, U.S., and Yanina Wickmayer, Belgium, 6-4, 6-1.

CRICKET

WORLD CUP

SEMIFINALS

Yesterday's result
At Mohali, India
India (260-9) def. Pakistan (231) by 29 runs.

FINAL

Saturday's game
At Mumbai, India
Sri Lanka vs. India

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

At Houston
NATIONAL SEMIFINALS
Saturday's games
Kentucky (29-8) vs. Connecticut (30-9)
Butler (27-9) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (28-11)
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Monday's game
Semifinal winners

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Chicago	54	20	.730	—
y-Boston	51	22	.699	2½
x-Miami	52	23	.693	2½
x-Orlando	47	28	.627	7½
x-Atlanta	43	32	.573	11½
Philadelphia	39	36	.520	15½
New York	37	38	.493	17½
Indiana	34	42	.447	21
Charlotte	32	42	.432	22
Milwaukee	30	44	.405	24
Detroit	26	48	.351	28
New Jersey	23	51	.311	31
Toronto	20	54	.270	34
Washington	18	56	.243	36
Cleveland	15	59	.203	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	57	17	.770	—
y-L.A. Lakers	53	20	.726	3½
x-Dallas	52	21	.712	4½
x-Oklahoma City	50	24	.676	7
Denver	45	29	.608	12
New Orleans	43	32	.573	14½
Portland	43	32	.573	14½
Memphis	42	33	.560	15½
Houston	39	36	.520	18½
Phoenix	36	38	.486	21
Utah	36	39	.480	21½
Golden State	32	44	.421	26
L.A. Clippers	29	45	.392	28
Sacramento	21	53	.284	36
Minnesota	17	58	.227	40½

d – division leader; **x** — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

Last night's results
Milwaukee 104 Toronto 98
Charlotte 98 Cleveland 97
Philadelphia 108 Houston 97
Indiana 111 Detroit 101
Atlanta 85 Orlando 82
Miami 123 Washington 107
New York 120 New Jersey 116
Memphis 110 Golden State 91
Chicago 108 Minnesota 91
New Orleans 95 Portland 91
Denver 104 Sacramento 90
Oklahoma City 116 Phoenix 98
Dallas at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Houston 112, New Jersey 87
Cleveland 102, Miami 90
Oklahoma City 115, Golden State 114 (OT)
Sacramento 116, Phoenix 113
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Boston at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	12	9	3	.750	141	114	—
x-Buffalo	11	8	3	.727	122	102	½
Rochester	11	6	5	.545	106	117	2½
Boston	13	6	7	.462	133	120	3½
Philadelphia	12	4	8	.333	109	138	5

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Calgary	12	9	3	.750	153	132	—
x-Washington	12	6	6	.500	155	143	3
Minnesota	11	5	6	.455	124	124	3½
Edmonton	12	3	9	.250	131	160	6
Colorado	10	2	8	.200	89	113	6

x — clinched playoff berth.
WEEK 13
All times Eastern
Tomorrow's games
Washington at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Toronto at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Colorado, 9 p.m.

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Oh deer, Raps lose

Brandon Jennings pours in 25 points as Bucks beat Raptors

Brandon Jennings scored 25 points and seven assists as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Toronto Raptors 104-98 last night.

Drew Gooden added 22 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for Milwaukee, while Andrew Bogut picked up 17 points with 10 rebounds.

Andrea Bargnani scored 22 points and DeMar DeRozan added 20 for the Raptors (20-54), who have lost five straight coming off a Western Conference road trip where they went 1-4.

BUCKS	RAPTORS
104	98

The Bucks (30-45) have won seven of their last nine games against the Raptors, who couldn't play the role of spoilers with Milwaukee in a fight with Indiana and Charlotte for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

In a hotly contested fourth quarter with the teams trading baskets, Gooden scored 13 points and eight rebounds. He followed up a key offensive tip-in with a 21-foot jump shot from the corner with 43 seconds, giving Milwaukee a 98-92 lead.

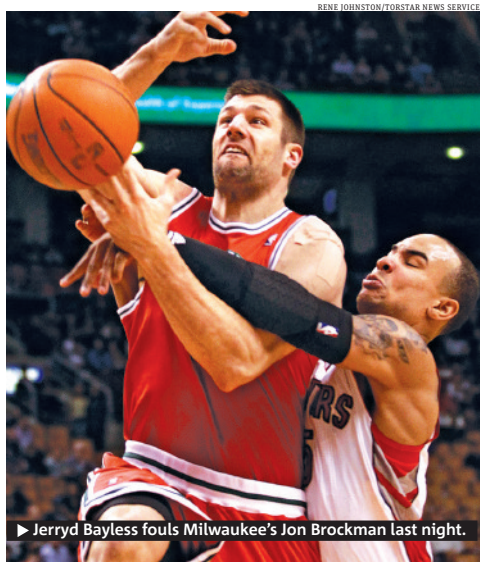
Leandro Barbosa responded with a 24-foot jump shot to bring the game within four points with 27.6 seconds left. Jennings made both free throws after being fouled on the subsequent inbound play extending the Bucks lead to 100-94.

DeRozan's slashing layup with 20 seconds was followed by two free throws by Gooden making the score 102-96 with 17.5 seconds left.

Barbosa's three-point attempt with 11 seconds left fell short, hitting the front of the rim. Gooden finished the game off with another pair of free throws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Jerryd Bayless fouls Milwaukee's Jon Brockman last night.

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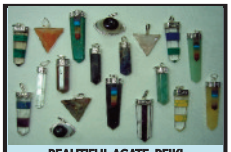

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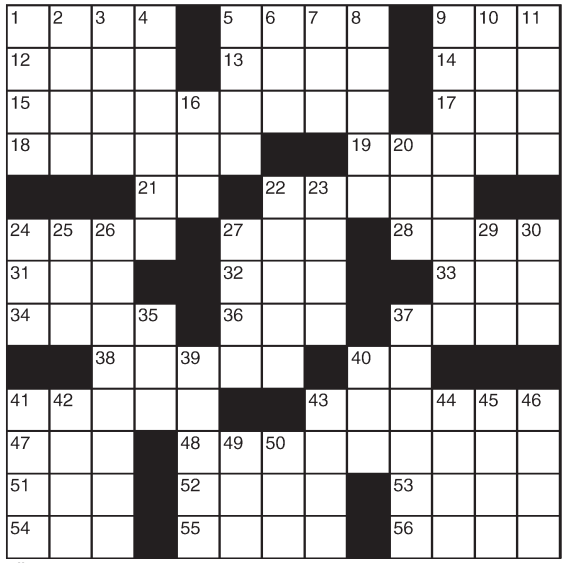
Crossword



Across

1 Teen's woe
5 Cole Porter's "Let's —"
9 "All My Children" airer
12 Surveyor's map
13 Reed instrument
14 Sine — non
15 Tuba's cousin
17 Coffee vessel
18 Rap session?
19 Bit of flora
21 Tagged player
22 Clean the cookware
24 Intl. oil group
27 Ovine remark
28 Band's bookings
31 Sister
32 Mountain
33 "— Lazy River"
34 Never again?
36 Spelling contest
37 Mosque VIP
38 Agrees to
40 Either mate
41 About half of all adults
43 Show clearly
47 "The Greatest"
48 P.E. venue
51 H1N1 ailment
52 Future 19-Across
53 Beige
54 Scot's hat
55 "The Price Is Right" props
56 Collections

Down

1 "Planet of the —"
2 Aid for Sherlock
3 California wine valley
4 Cultural, in a sense
5 Finished
6 Kimono sash
7 Debtor's letters
8 Beat
9 Fishtank
10 Char
11 Lacks the skills
16 Autumn mo.
20 Drag along
22 Red-tag events
23 Part of a superhero costume
24 Lennon's lady
25 Play on words
26 Warm praise
27 Infant
29 Coll. transcript stat
30 Our uncle
35 — out a living
37 Van Gogh painting
39 Uneasy feeling
40 Eggs
41 Float gracefully
42 Earthenware pot
43 Odd's mates
44 Pleasant
45 Rudely brief
46 Ostriches' kin
49 Verily
50 "Family Guy" daughter

▶ Yesterday's answer

C	O	P	S	■	M	A	R	■	A	J	A	R
O	P	E	C	■	O	W	E	■	B	A	S	E
C	U	P	O	F	T	E	A	■	A	R	I	A
A	S	S	O	R	T	■	P	E	L	H	A	M
■	■	■	P	O	L	■	S	L	O	E	■	■
B	B	C	■	G	E	M	■	K	N	A	V	E
R	O	A	M	■	D	I	X	■	E	D	I	T
A	P	N	E	A	■	L	E	A	■	S	A	C
■	■	B	A	D	E	■	R	I	D	■	■	■
P	H	E	N	O	L	■	O	L	I	V	E	S
L	O	R	D	■	B	O	X	S	C	O	R	E
O	G	R	E	■	O	R	E	■	E	L	I	A
T	S	A	R	■	W	A	S	■	S	T	E	M

Sudoku

1			9	8				3
	5					9	6	
	6			2	1			4
					9			6
		5				7		
4			3					
5			4	6			8	
	2	4					1	
7				3	2			5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	2	4	6	8	3	5	9	7
5	6	7	2	9	1	3	4	8
9	8	3	4	5	7	2	6	1
4	5	2	8	7	6	1	3	9
6	7	8	3	1	9	4	5	2
3	9	1	5	4	2	7	8	6
2	4	6	7	3	8	9	1	5
8	3	9	1	2	5	6	7	4
7	1	5	9	6	4	8	2	3

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Dear Trixx, thanks for the shoutout. Cuba is going to be a blast. 1 problem about the marriage thing, you're my niece. Call me crazy, but I think that's a little illegal and just plain weird. Love all you crazy girls!

Lunatic, we have this crazy rollercoaster type life an I couldn't ask for anything more. u are truly an AMAZING man in every possible way. ur dedication is my inspiration, never stop fighting for YOUR dream. Truly, madly, deeply, I love u forever & a day baby. **BEAR <3**

Barbie I hope this happy get-well note adds sunshine to your day and shows you that you're thought of in a warm and special way! xoxo **YOURS TRULY, MUFFIN**

I know we're young but I know this love is real. Looking forward to our future together. I love you. **AMY**

Today 4°/1° Showers 40%
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Everyone gets emotional occasionally, so why deny what you feel? Besides, the planets warn if you keep things bottled up inside for too long, you won't do your health any good.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 It would be nice if others would change their ways to accommodate your needs but it isn't going to happen and you know it. If there is something you want, the onus is very much on you to get it.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Don't get involved in new situations without thinking about the potential consequences, first. A little caution in your affairs would not be a bad thing over the next 24 hours.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Life is too short to waste time worrying about things that may never happen. Wake up to the fact that this is not a dress rehearsal — this is life. What can you do that will make a difference in the world?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Others may not approve of some of the things you do, but that's their problem. Be true to who you are and don't be afraid to be the one who tries something out of the ordinary.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Words come easily to you but they could also work against you, especially if you use them to trick people into believing things that aren't true. Why risk making enemies?

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You have a lot to do today and if others can't keep up with your relentless pace, that's too bad. There are times you have to get on with life and ignore everything and everyone else.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Because there have been some difficult aspects over the past few days, you may be struggling to see what there is to smile about. There's plenty. For example, why not get working on your big summer plans?

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You'll make efforts above and beyond the call of duty today but they'll be worth it in the long term. Your future looks very rosy, but you must stick with your action plan.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 It'd be nice to believe everyone you do business with is honest, but you know it's not true. Don't give anyone the authority to make decisions for you. That's asking for trouble.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you come on too strong today, you could scare away someone whose friendship would have been good for you. Watch what you say and, more importantly, watch how you say it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 It may seem like someone is going out of his or her way to make life difficult for you but most likely you're overreacting. Don't say or do anything that may start an unnecessary feud today. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495, fees, levies, charges and all applicable taxes (excluding HST) are included. Registration, insurance and license fees are excluded. ‡†♦Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ▼Fuel consumption for 2011 Accent 3Dr (HWY 5.7L/100KM, City 7.3L/100KM)/2011 Elantra Touring L 5-speed/2011 Sonata GL 6-speed/2011 Tucson L 5-speed/2011 Elantra Touring L Auto (HWY 6.5L/100KM, City 8.7L/100KM)/Tucson (HWY 6.5L/100KM, City 9.1L/100KM)/2011 Santa Fe 2.4L 6-Speed Automatic FWD (City 10.4L/100KM, HWY 72L/100KM) are based on EnerGuide fuel consumption ratings. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ^Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2011 Sonata GL 6-speed manual (7.35L/100km) and 2011 Energuide combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel consumption for the Sonata GL 6-speed manual (HWY 5.7L/100KM, City 8.7L/100KM) based on 2011 Energuide rating. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). The 5-star rating applies to all the trim levels of the 2011 Sonata produced between July 2nd and September 7th 2010. ∞Based on the December 2010 A|AMC report. ΩBased on the January 2011 A|AMC report. 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